

AYCTE Pilot for Simmons Dining Canceled Amid Controversy Over Implementation

By **Natasha Plotkin**
NEWS EDITOR

Simmons residents were officially informed on Thursday that their dorm would return to an à la carte dining system in the fall, reversing a July 24 announcement that a new trial of the “all you care to eat” buffet system would be tested instead.

A committee of Simmons residents, chaired by housemaster and professor John M. Essigmann PhD ’76, will further discuss dining issues over the fall term.

“We have heard loud and articulate voices on both sides of the issue,” Essigmann said. “But we have also heard that the level of satisfaction with the system in place before last spring was marginal at best. Returning to it permanently without considering other options seems contrary to the interests of the com-

munity. It is time for a dialog within Simmons.”

The committee will submit a series of recommendations to Karen A. Nilsson, senior associate dean for student life. Nilsson will make the final decision on how Simmons Dining will be run next spring and in the future.

The AYCTE pilot that would have taken place came as a surprise to Simmons residents who had gone through a six-week trial of AYCTE dining at the end of spring term and voted, narrowly, not to implement AYCTE permanently in the fall.

AYCTE trial revoked

Outgoing Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict informed Simmons residents of the new AYCTE

Simmons Dining, Page 11

Columbia's Colombo Will Be Dean for Student Life

By **Angeline Wang**
NEWS AND FEATURES DIRECTOR

Costantino “Chris” Colombo, dean for student affairs at Columbia University’s undergraduate schools, was chosen as MIT’s new dean for student life. Colombo, whose appointment is effective beginning Aug. 18, will move into Next House with his family.

Colombo replaces Larry G. Benedict, who has held the dean for student life position since its inception in 2000. Benedict, who announced his retirement in October,

will leave MIT this month.

Steven R. Lerman ’72, dean for graduate education and chair of the search advisory committee, said that he was “incredibly excited” about Colombo’s appointment. Lerman said that Colombo is “an incredibly thoughtful and wise individual” who brings a great deal of experience to MIT, having held the analogous position at two other top-tier universities.

Colombo, who has worked at

Colombo, Page 14

MIT Files Patent Suit Against Biotech Company Affymetrix

By **Joyce Kwan**
STAFF REPORTER

MIT filed a lawsuit against biotechnology company Affymetrix last month, alleging the company’s GeneChip technology infringes an existing MIT patent.

The complaint, filed on July 1, accuses Affymetrix for knowingly infringing the patent and involving

others to infringe by marketing the technology in the United States. It cites E8 Pharmaceuticals and MIT as plaintiffs. E8 Pharmaceuticals is a company co-founded by MIT Biology Professor David E. Housman, who is also a co-inventor of the patented technology.

Affymetrix, Page 11

In Short

¶ **MIT is offering new commuting options**, including an increase in MBTA commuter rail subsidies and free transit passes for September for employees who park at MIT five days a week. For more information, see <http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/>.

¶ **Kerri A. Mills**, who was a Campus Activities Complex manager for several years, has replaced Laurie Ward as the financial administrator of the Student Activities Office and will manage the financial accounts of student groups. Ward left the position in January to become the financial administrator of HST.

¶ **The Central Square Theater**, located at 450 Massachusetts Ave., opened to the public last month. The new black-box theater will house two professional theater groups and is the result of a collaboration between MIT, the owner of the property, and the City of Cambridge.

¶ **Ben Jones**, who has been the communications manager for the MIT Office of Admissions for the

last four years, left MIT in July to become the vice president for communications for Oberlin College, his alma mater. Jones designed the “MyMIT” Web portal, including the well-known admissions blogs.

¶ **Scott D. Sewell**, popular technical instructor for Physics Junior Lab (8.13 and 8.14), will be leaving MIT this month. He is widely admired by students for his assistance with what is considered one of the most arduous classes at MIT.

¶ **Karl W. Reid**, associate dean and director of the MIT Office of Minority Education, is leaving MIT to take a liaison position at the United Negro College Fund.

¶ **The new Ashdown House (NW35)**, located near Sidney-Pacific graduate dormitory, opens this month to residents.

¶ **URLs on scripts.mit.edu** are changing to <http://lockername.scripts.mit.edu/> from the current style, <http://scripts.mit.edu/~lockername/>.



MICHAEL MEYER

Simmons Dining Hall, pictured above, will return to a la carte service in the fall, while a new committee will decide future changes.

Charges Dropped Against Student Arrested in NW16

By **Austin Chu**
STAFF REPORTER

Felony charges against Michael P. Short G related to his arrest in the basement of NW16 have been dropped. According to the motion filed by the prosecution on July 18, dropping the charges is “in the interests of justice as discipline proceedings will be conducted by the MIT internal discipline board.”

Steven J. Sack, Short’s lawyer, expressed satisfaction at the resolution of the criminal charges against Short. According to Sack, Short was hacking at the time of his arrest. Short himself did not respond to requests for comment.

The Middlesex District Attorney’s Office did not respond to repeated requests for comment. The MIT News

Office declined to comment.

Short was found in a caged room in the basement of NW16 on the night of June 7 along with Harold S. Barnard G and Brandeis University graduate student Marina Dang. According to the police report filed by officer Duane R. Keegan, Short voluntarily showed how he had used a tool made from a Diet Coke can to open the combination lock that had secured the room. He was subsequently arrested and charged with breaking and entering at night with intent to commit a felony and possession of burglarious instruments. Neither Barnard nor Dang have been charged in connection with this incident.

Hacking, Page 14



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

MIT hackers illuminated the Green Building with a bat signal on the night of July 17, in honor of the midnight opening of the 2008 Batman film *The Dark Knight*.

Missing '95 Alumna Arrested in Afghanistan

By **John A. Hawkinson**
STAFF REPORTER

Aafia Siddiqui ’95, missing since 2003, was arrested in Afghanistan and was arraigned Tuesday morning in Federal District Court in New York City. She is accused of picking up an assault rifle and shooting at U.S. personnel when she was in Afghan police custody.

During the Tuesday hearing, one of Siddiqui’s lawyers, Elizabeth M. Fink, told the judge that allegations that her 90-pound client had attacked Americans with a rifle were “patently absurd,” according to *The New York Times*.

Siddiqui, who received a biology degree from MIT, disappeared in Karachi, Pakistan in March of 2003, along with her three children.

Elaine Whitfield Sharp, who represents Siddiqui and her family, maintains Siddiqui has been secretly held prisoner in U.S. custody at the Bagram Theatre Internment Facility in Afghanistan since her disappearance, a charge that is flatly denied by the United States.

Arrested in Ghazni, Afghanistan



AFGHANISTAN—Siddiqui was hospitalized at Bagram Air Base, 30 miles north of Kabul, the capital. Ghazni is 80 miles southwest of Kabul.

Siddiqui and a teenage boy were arrested by the Afghanistan National Police in Ghazni on July 17, according to the Justice Department’s criminal complaint. The complaint alleges that Siddiqui’s handbag contained a veritable panoply of terrorist paraphernalia, including “numerous documents describing the creation of explosives, of chemical weapons,” and of biological and radiological weapons; papers describing U.S. landmarks; excerpts from the *Anarchist’s Arsenal*; and “numerous chemical substances in gel and liquid form that were sealed in bottles and glass jars.”

A representative from the Ghazni Governor’s Office, Ismail Jahangir, speaking through a translator, said that Siddiqui was arrested because “they thought she had a bomb.” Jahangir said he did not know if she actually had a bomb, nor any details subsequent to the arrest.

Ghazni officials publicized her capture at a news conference on July 18.

Shootout at Afghan Police Station

After the press conference, a party of U.S. personnel conducted a meeting in the Afghan Police Station. Siddiqui, unrestrained, was present in the meeting room behind a yellow curtain, the U.S. sworn complaint alleges. The complaint states that she picked up a U.S. Army officer’s M-4 assault rifle and fired shots at U.S. personnel, missing them. (See

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The Tech will next publish during the week of Orientation, with daily issues from Aug. 25–29.

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WORLD & NATION

EPA Declines to Reduce Quota for Ethanol in Cars

By Matthew L. Wald

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Environmental Protection Agency rejected on Thursday a request to cut the federal government’s quota for the use of ethanol in cars, concluding, at least for now, that the national goal of reducing oil use trumps any effect on food prices from making fuel from corn.

The agency’s administrator, Stephen L. Johnson, said the mandate was “strengthening our nation’s energy security and supporting American farming communities,” and that the mandate was not causing “severe harm to the economy or the environment.”

The effect of the decision on fuel and food markets is hard to predict. Farmers argued that the jump in corn prices was driven not so much by the demand for ethanol as by growing demand for grain-fed meat around the world and by their own higher costs for diesel fuel.

Recently, high oil prices have led to even more ethanol production than the quota required. On the other hand, rising corn prices made some ethanol operations unprofitable, especially as oil prices started to fall.

McCain to Give Back \$50,000 Under Scrutiny

By Michael Luo

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sen. John McCain’s presidential campaign said Thursday that it would return all the contributions solicited for it by the Jordanian business partner of a prominent Florida fundraiser for McCain.

For the McCain camp, the decision caps a queasy two days in which news accounts scrutinized a cluster of more than \$50,000 in unusual contributions from a single extended family of Californians, the Abdullahs, and several of their friends.

The bundling of the donations was initially credited by the campaign to Harry Sargeant III, finance chairman of the Florida Republican Party and part-owner of a major oil trading company. But they were actually solicited by Mustafa Abu Naba’a, a longtime business partner of Sargeant.

The donations came under scrutiny because of their large size and the fact that for the most part, the Abdullahs do not appear wealthy. In addition, several of them interviewed expressed indifference or even hostility to McCain’s candidacy.

Bush Criticizes China and Myanmar in Thailand Visit

By Thomas Fuller and Steven Lee Myers

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BANGKOK, THAILAND

President Bush toured Bangkok’s fetid slums, lunched with Burmese dissidents and delivered a speech critical of China to a carefully screened crowd here on Thursday, using them as backdrops for his message on human rights and democracy during his final tour of Asia.

With the first lady, Laura Bush, visiting a Burmese refugee camp packed with thousands of anxious families, the president railed against what he called the tyranny in Myanmar, chided China for its lack of religious freedom and praised Thailand as “the land of the free.”

“The passion for liberty transcends culture and faith,” Bush told a handpicked, polite group of Thai politicians, university students and other dignitaries.

The selection of Thailand for what the administration billed as a major policy speech partly reflected the country’s longstanding ties with the United States, cemented by the Vietnam War, when American soldiers used Thailand as a staging ground.

But Bangkok was also an awkward location for a speech about human rights and democracy given Thailand’s military coup two years ago and its continuing political instability.

Ex-Bin Laden Aid Sentenced To Five and a Half Years

By William Glaberson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

Rejecting a prosecution request for a severe sentence, a panel of military officers on Thursday sentenced a former driver for Osama bin Laden convicted of a war crimes charge to five and a half years in prison. The sentence means that the first detainee convicted after a war crimes trial here could complete his punishment by the end of this year.

The military judge, Capt. Keith J. Allred of the Navy, had already said that he planned to give the driver, Salim Ahmed Hamdan, credit for at least the 61 months he has been held since being charged, out of more than six years in all. That would bring Hamdan to the end of his criminal sentence in five months. After that his fate is unclear, because the Bush administration says that it can hold detainees here until the end of the war on terror.

The unexpectedly short sentence came after Hamdan was acquitted on Wednesday of the most serious charge against him, conspiracy, having been convicted only of material support for terrorism. The extraordinary conclusion to the first of the post-Sept. 11 war

crimes trials — a case that led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling in 2006 blocking a prior effort to prosecute him — once again raised many of the questions that have long surrounded the Bush administration’s military commission system here, which it plans to use to try another 80 detainees.

The sentence was far less than military prosecutors had sought. Through more than five years of proceedings, prosecutors had pursued a life sentence. Earlier in the day, faced with Hamdan’s acquittal on the most serious charge against him, the prosecutors recommended a sentence of at least 30 years and had said life might still be appropriate.

“Your sentence,” a prosecutor, John Murphy, told the panel, “should say the United States will hunt you down and give you a harsh but appropriate sentence if you provide material support for terrorism.”

Supporters of the military commission system and military prosecutors here said the sentence proved that the Bush administration’s system for trying detainees was legitimate and fair.

David Rivkin, a Washington lawyer who has been a consistent supporter of the administration’s detention policies,

said it would be difficult for anyone to criticize the system after the sentence. “This is an enormously compelling indication of how independent the process has been,” Rivkin said.

The prosecutors said they would have preferred a longer sentence, but noted that they had won a conviction. “That’s the way a fair, open system works,” said one of the prosecutors, Maj. Omar Ashmawy. “The sentence isn’t always what the government asks for.”

Defense lawyers described the verdict as a victory propelled by the military officers on the panel, but they said it did not remedy what they have described as the system’s flaws.

“What ultimately happened, in spite of the system, was justice,” said Charles D. Swift, a former Navy lawyer who has forged a close relationship with Hamdan through more than five years of battles as his lawyer.

After just over an hour of deliberations on the sentence, the panel of six senior military officers returned to the windowless tribunal room with their sentence on the single war crimes charge on which they convicted him, providing material support to a terrorist organization.

Unlikely Partners Produce Olympic Spectacle

By David Barboza

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

For much of the past quarter century, the Chinese director Zhang Yimou made films that showcased his country’s struggle against poverty, war and political misrule to the outside world — films that Chinese, for the most part, never saw.

Time and again, Zhang’s terse, gritty epics were banned by government censors for portraying China’s ugly side. When he won an award at the Cannes Film Festival in 1994, the authorities stopped him from attending. Up for an Oscar one year, officials lobbied to have his film withdrawn from the competition.

But when the Olympics kick off Friday at China’s new National Stadium, with President Hu Jintao of China, President Bush and other world leaders in attendance and per-

haps 1 billion people watching live on television, Zhang will preside over the opening ceremonies.

Nearly two years in the making, his spectacle is intended to present China’s new face to the world with stagecraft and pyrotechnics that organizers boast have no equal in the history of the games. Whether or not it succeeds, it will underscore one reality of a rising China: Many leading artists now work with, or at least not against, the ruling Communist Party.

Rising nationalism and pride in China’s emergence as an economic power, and robust state support for artists who steer clear of political defiance, have transformed China’s cultural landscape since the early part of this decade. Today, directors, writers and painters who seek to expose the darker side of authoritarian rule not only enrage the censors, but also often find themselves shut out of the lucrative market for Chi-

nese art, books and film. Many of those who find less political outlets for their talent, on the other hand, can get rich.

“People really are selling their talent in a way that can make them money,” said Ai Weiwei, an internationally recognized artist based in Beijing. “They really know that if they work with the government, they’ll benefit.”

The opening ceremony will represent a particularly momentous conversion for Zhang, whose experience during the horrors of Mao’s Cultural Revolution appeared to inform several of his internationally acclaimed — and domestically banned — films, including “Ju Dou” and “To Live.”

Zhang said in a recent interview that he never had political aims. His supporters say it is the Communist Party that has become more sophisticated, seeking to harness the country’s top talent and embrace a broader notion of national culture.

WEATHER

Cool Pattern Continues

By Angela Zalucha

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Those without air conditioning may rejoice — high temperatures for this weekend and next week look to remain near or below the average high of 80°F for this time of year. Today, the wind continues to blow from the east, bringing cold air from above the ocean. Temperatures will top out in the low 70s, accompanied by clouds and a chance for more thunderstorms. Saturday looks to be quite pleasant, as winds change to westerly and we get the warmer inland air. We should finally get some sunshine, as well as lower dew points (the dew point is a measure of the absolute moisture content of the air). The chance for thunderstorms returns Sunday night, with a chance of showers each day next week.

For the remainder of the month, look towards the southern sky just after dark. The planet Jupiter will appear as a bright star about 30° above the horizon.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. High 73°F (23°C).

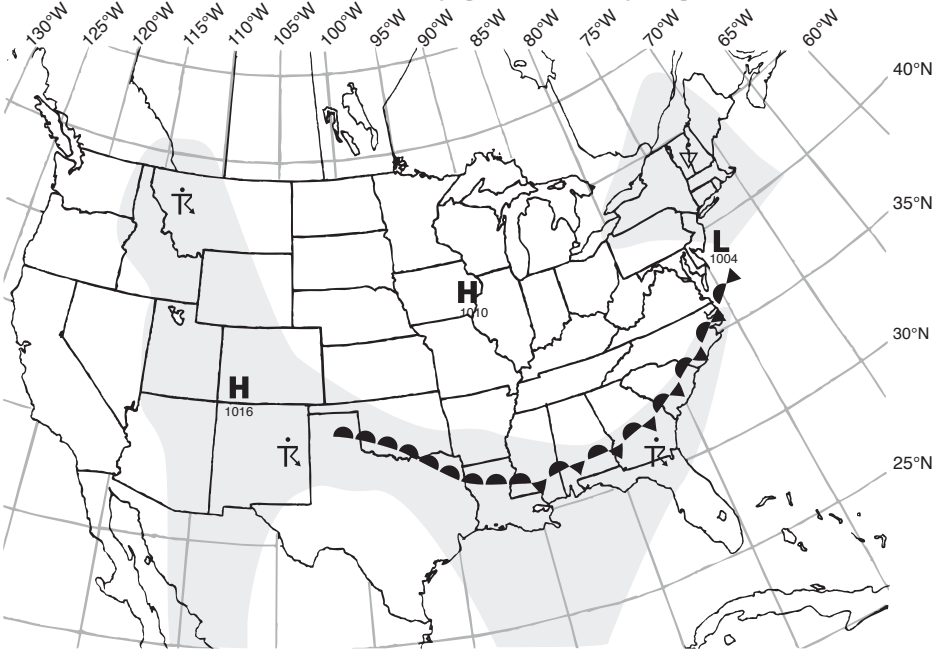
Tonight: Decreasing cloudiness. Low 63°F (17°C).

Tomorrow: Partly sunny and less humid. High 80°F (27°C).

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 64°F (18°C).

Sunday through Thursday: Partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms each day. Highs in the upper 70s°F (25°C). Lows in the mid 60s°F (18°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, August 8, 2008



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow * Rain ∇	Fog ☁
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Light ∇ Moderate *	Thunderstorm ⚡
§ Hurricane	▲ Cold Front	Heavy ** ***	Haze ☁
	Stationary Front		

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

From Helper to Top Suspect In Anthrax Case

By Rachel Swarns
and Eric Lipton

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

In December 2002, federal investigators scoured an icy pond on a snow-covered mountain near Frederick, Md., hunting for clues that would lead to the anthrax killer.

As they worked, the Army microbiologist now believed to be responsible for the five deaths stood calmly in their midst, chatting, smiling and watching.

Bruce E. Ivins, the scientist and a Red Cross volunteer, mingled with the investigators in a military tent, serving coffee, doughnuts and chocolate bars to members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and search teams.

Law enforcement officials hustled him away after they realized he was an anthrax researcher who could compromise the investigation, according to Red Cross volunteers who were there. Ivins seemed embarrassed by it all, prompting his friends to tease him about the incident.

Five years passed before the FBI turned its attention to the man who

stood on the sidelines of the hunt that day. And Miriam Fleming, who was there as the divers plunged into the murky waters searching for evidence, said she still could not quite believe that the man identified as the anthrax killer was cheerfully working by her side.

“He was kind of goofy, but he was always in a good mood,” said Fleming, a Red Cross volunteer. “He seemed so normal.”

She added: “Now we have to figure it out: Who was the real Bruce Ivins?”

Last week, Ivins killed himself as the authorities were preparing to indict him in the mailing of the anthrax letters in 2001. Yet as his friends and colleagues note, Ivins was almost always in plain sight, offering assistance — and misleading information, officials say — to federal agents running the nation’s longest and most costly bioterrorism inquiry.

In the early days after the letter attacks in September and October 2001, Ivins joined about 90 colleagues at the Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Dis-

eases in a round-the-clock push to test thousands of samples of suspect powder to see if they were anthrax. He even helped to analyze a letter sent to former Sen. Tom Daschle, and went to the Pentagon to discuss the results.

Jeffrey Adamovicz, who was Ivins’ supervisor at the time, said he remembers the day the scientists opened that envelope, placed in a double-sealed bag inside a protective hood designed to deal with dangerous pathogens.

“The anthrax was floating around inside the bag,” Adamovicz said. “It was very scary.”

He said he turned to Ivins and said, “That stuff is amazing.”

“Yes, it is unbelievable,” he recalled Ivins replying. “I have never seen anything like that.”

Months later, as the FBI focused on the Army laboratory at Fort Detrick, Md., as a possible source of the anthrax, Ivins twice submitted samples from his own supplies that did not match the deadly spores used in the attack. Investigators later concluded he had chosen irrelevant samples to throw them off his trail.

Coalition Moves to Impeach Musharraf, Raising Fears of Crisis

By Jane Perlez

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

A move by Pakistan’s usually fractious governing coalition on Thursday to impeach President Pervez Musharraf left the country on the brink of a political crisis that threatened to paralyze the government at a critical moment when the United States is demanding greater action against militants based here.

The governing coalition set no formal deadline for the start of impeachment proceedings against Musharraf, a favored U.S. ally, leaving open the possibility of a protracted and debilitating political fight that could take months of haggling to secure the parliamentary votes needed for impeachment. The actual charges have yet to be announced.

It also raised the threat that Musharraf would try to dissolve the Parliament, or that he would look to the army for protection, though many analysts said the military was unlikely to intervene. “The army preference is not to get involved and for the constitutional process to be followed so there is the least amount of disruption

to the system,” said Shuja Nawaz, the author of *Crossed Swords* (Oxford University Press), a book on the Pakistani military. “They would not want to be drawn into it.”

The announcement that the civilian leaders would seek impeachment, made at a news conference here, was the culmination of months of wrenching political changes after the assassination of the opposition leader Benazir Bhutto in December and the decisive victory of her party in elections in February. Since then, the leaders of the country’s two major parties, Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif, have forged a tense governing coalition that has teetered on collapse.

Zardari, the head of the Pakistan Peoples Party, and Sharif, the leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-N, have barely been on speaking terms. For the last several days, they were closeted in meetings on how to keep their fractious coalition together.

Sharif, who was ousted as prime minister by Musharraf in the 1999 coup, has been pushing Zardari to join impeachment proceedings against the president. Zardari had been resisting, but this week he apparently decided

that the one way to keep the coalition functioning was to undertake a frontal attack on Musharraf, who is immensely unpopular, after having ruled Pakistan as a military leader for eight years until late 2007.

On Thursday, the two coalition leaders issued a joint communique saying their government would “immediately initiate impeachment proceedings” and that it would “present a charge sheet against General Musharraf.”

Musharraf was described by his allies as determined to fight back, and met all day on Thursday with his political backers and his constitutional lawyer, Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada. In an indication of the gravity of his situation, the president called off his trip to attend the opening of the Olympic Games.

Many Pakistani officials said they believed Musharraf would seek support from the Bush administration. It has endowed Pakistan with more than \$12 billion of mostly military aid since 9/11 for its cooperation in combating the insurgency of the Taliban and al-Qaida that is washing over the border into Afghanistan and conducting attacks on U.S. troops there.

Separatist Fighting Worsens in Georgia Border Region

By Michael Schwirtz

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

Fighting in the border region between the former Soviet republic of Georgia and a breakaway Georgian enclave has reached its highest level in years, with Georgia saying that up to 10 civilians and soldiers had been killed in violence that erupted overnight on Wednesday and lasted throughout the day on Thursday.

The deaths were part of an intense, new round of fighting that has continued sporadically since last Saturday, when six people in South Ossetia, the breakaway enclave, died and more than 20 were wounded on both sides.

South Ossetia has reported evacuating women, children and the elderly from the conflict zone, sending them north into Russia, while news agencies reported heavy fire around the enclave’s capital, Tskhinvali, early Friday morning.

The recent violence has been the worst to hit the region since June 2004, shortly after President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia

came to power vowing to reassert the country’s control over South Ossetia and another rebel region, Abkhazia.

The two separatist republics are internationally unrecognized but gained de facto independence from Georgia after a series of bloody wars in the 1990s during which thousands died. The republics then settled into a period of tenuous peace monitored by a contingent of Russian peacekeeping troops.

Upon taking power, Saakashvili challenged Russian preeminence in the region by seeking NATO membership and deeper ties with the West. His government has accused Russia of training and supplying separatist forces in both South Ossetia and Abkhazia under the auspices of its peacekeeping mission — accusations that Moscow denies.

Tensions further escalated earlier this year when Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in February and was subsequently recognized by several Western countries. Russia, an ally of Serbia, had vehemently opposed the move and vowed

to increase its support for Abkhazia and South Ossetia — a poor, mountainous territory between Georgia and Russia’s southern border — in retaliation.

Georgia and South Ossetia blame one another for starting the current violence, and it is still unclear whether the fighting could intensify into full-scale war or simply peter out as have past skirmishes in this long-running conflict.

“It does give off the appearance that the violence is linked to strategic moves by one or both sides to improve their positions,” said Ana Jelenkovic, an associate at the Eurasia Group.

In the violence this week, separatist fighters from South Ossetia, the breakaway enclave, used rocket-propelled grenades to blow up a Georgian armored personnel carrier, killing two soldiers and injuring six others, Shota Utiashvili, a Georgian interior ministry spokesman said. Up to eight Georgian civilians were killed in a separate mortar attack on Thursday on the village of Avnevi in the border region, he said.

In Retail Sales, More Signs of a Slowdown

By Michael M. Grynbaum

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Americans sought out more bargains and cheaper goods in July, leaving the nation’s biggest retailers bracing for a painful back-to-school shopping season.

Retail sales reports released Thursday revealed a country that is rapidly ratcheting back its spending habits, and abandoning midtier and discount shopping mall mainstays that were booming a year ago.

The biggest surprise was a middling month for Wal-Mart Stores, the behemoth of the discount retail industry, which reported an increase in sales but missed Wall Street’s estimates. Wal-Mart also warned that its sales would slow in August, as the stimulus from the government’s tax rebates fades away.

The gloomy forecast helped depress stocks on Thursday, and the Dow Jones industrials were down about 120 points at mid-day. Wal-Mart shares tumbled more than 4 percent.

For months, sales at the big retail stores have been closely tracked as a gauge of trends in consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of the nation’s economic growth. Retailers showed some resilience, with many stores beating sales estimates, in part, because of the government’s tax rebates.

But as the stimulus program winds down, few buffers will separate retailers from consumers struggling with higher fuel and food prices, a housing price collapse and a tight credit market.

Europe Central Bank, Bank of England Keep Rates Unchanged

By Carter Dougherty

THE NEW YORK TIMES

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

The European Central Bank left its benchmark interest rate unchanged on Thursday amid mounting evidence that the economy of the 15-nation euro area was slowing.

The bank kept its rate at 4.25 percent after it bucked the trend of major central banks in July by raising its rate a quarter percentage point, a step aimed at cooling expectations of rising inflation.

On Thursday, the Bank of England also kept its key rate unchanged at 5 percent, as it sought to balance its twin goals of keeping inflation under control while mitigating the worst effects of a significant slowdown in the British economy.

The European bank is holding rates steady amid increasing evidence that the Continent’s economy appears to have slowed dramatically in the last few months, a development that reflects a much weaker outlook in Germany, which accounts for a third of the region’s output.

German industrial orders, the backbone of its growth, fell 2.9 percent in June from May, the seventh consecutive decline, according to data released Wednesday. Orders from the rest of the euro area, Germany’s largest market, declined 7.7 percent in the same period.

“German manufacturers clearly can’t escape unscathed from the darkening outlook for the global economy,” Alexander Koch, an economist at UniCredit, wrote in a research note.

Group Says Video Warns of Olympic Attack

By Edward Wong

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

A terrorist group seeking an independent Muslim state in western China has released a video threatening an attack on the Olympic Games here, according to an American organization that tracks terrorist Internet posts.

The video’s opening graphics show a burning Olympic logo and an explosion superimposed over one of the athletic sites, said the monitoring organization, IntelCenter, based in Alexandria, Va.

According to IntelCenter’s description, a man holding a Kalashnikov rifle, who identifies himself as Abdullah Mansour, says in the Uighur language: “We, members of the Turkestan Islamic Party, have declared war against China. We oppose China’s occupation of our homeland of East Turkestan, which is a part of the Islamic world.”

He warns Muslims not to go to the games and not to let their children go. “We do not want to see any Muslim brothers and sisters who believe in Allah and his Holy Prophet Muhammad, who believe in the next life and the day of judgment, get hurt by our fire targeted at China,” he says.

The Uighurs, a Turkic Muslim people, dominate the Xinjiang region in western China.

The video’s violent opening graphics are the same as those in a video the group released July 23, in which it claimed responsibility for bus bombings in Kunming and Shanghai that killed five people and wounded at least 26. In that video, a masked spokesman threatened violence against the Olympics.

Fingerprint Analysis Shows What’s Been Touched

By Kenneth Chang

THE NEW YORK TIMES

With a new analytical technique, a fingerprint can now reveal much more than the identity of a person. It can now also identify what the person has been touching drugs, explosives or poisons, for example.

Writing in Friday’s issue of the journal *Science*, Dr. R. Graham Cooks, a professor of chemistry at Purdue University, and his colleagues describe how a laboratory technique, mass spectrometry, could find a wider application in crime investigations.

The equipment to perform such tests is already commercially available, although prohibitively expensive for all but the largest crime laboratories. Smaller, cheaper, portable versions of such analyzers are probably only a couple of years away.

In Cooks’ method, a tiny spray of liquid that has been electrically charged — either water or alcohol — is sprayed on a tiny bit of the fingerprint. The droplets dissolve compounds in the fingerprints and splash them off the surface into the analyzer. The liquid is heated and evaporates, and the electrical charge is transferred to the fingerprint molecules, which are then identified by a device called a mass spectrometer. The process is repeated over the entire fingerprint, producing a two-dimensional image.

OPINION

Sustainable Transportation Should Be a Priority

Andrew T. Lukmann

The administration made a wise move last week in deciding to take proactive steps to more explicitly encourage the use of public transportation by campus commuters. The recent change included an expansion of the commuter rail pass subsidy to 50 percent for all zones and the decision to provide free transit passes for the month of September to employees who currently park on campus. By making it easier for MIT faculty and staff to utilize the Boston metropolitan area's comprehensive transit system, the administration's efforts can go a long way towards decreasing the impact of rising fuel costs on our community and reducing our collective carbon footprint.

These recent changes in administration policy, however, are only reflective of a larger trend towards more efficient forms of travel due largely to rising fuel costs. According to a recent American Public Transportation Association ridership report, 85 million more trips on public trans-

portation were taken in the first three months of 2008 than in the same period of 2007, a 3.3 percent increase over last year's record total. At the same time, the number of auto vehicle-miles traveled has actually begun to decrease — this year at nearly unprecedented rates.

This kind of transit ridership jump, though predicted by some economists, was relatively unanticipated by policy makers — many of who view the nation as almost exclusively reliant on the automobile. However, America is no longer a rural nation — roughly 70 percent — of Americans live in urbanized areas, and many of those areas are serviced by public transport. The fact that we have recently seen such a significant shift in consumer behavior should indicate to government bureaucrats that the auto fuel market is more elastic than most have imagined. It is becoming clear to drivers that multiple travel options are available for many trips and that some of those alternatives are becoming more and more attractive.

The traveling public is reacting to price signals — they are changing modes, sharing rides,

and chaining trips in order to lengthen the frequency between costly fill-ups at their local gas station. In addition, these short-term measures are only a reflection of the more permanent changes that will likely accompany higher fuel prices, including increased fleet fuel efficiency, urban redensification, and more public transport-oriented development. Policy makers should be conscious that they can have a hand in changing (or preserving) the status-quo of transport behavior in this country through their treatment of transit fares, fuel taxes, and other government policies.

Just as MIT is taking steps to promote more cost and energy efficient travel for its employees, we should encourage our government officials to promote sustainable transportation options for all citizens. This year's election season and next year's reauthorization of the federal transportation program will provide important opportunities for us to influence the future of national transportation policy — ensuring a system that encourages sustainable development and accessibility instead of more urban sprawl.



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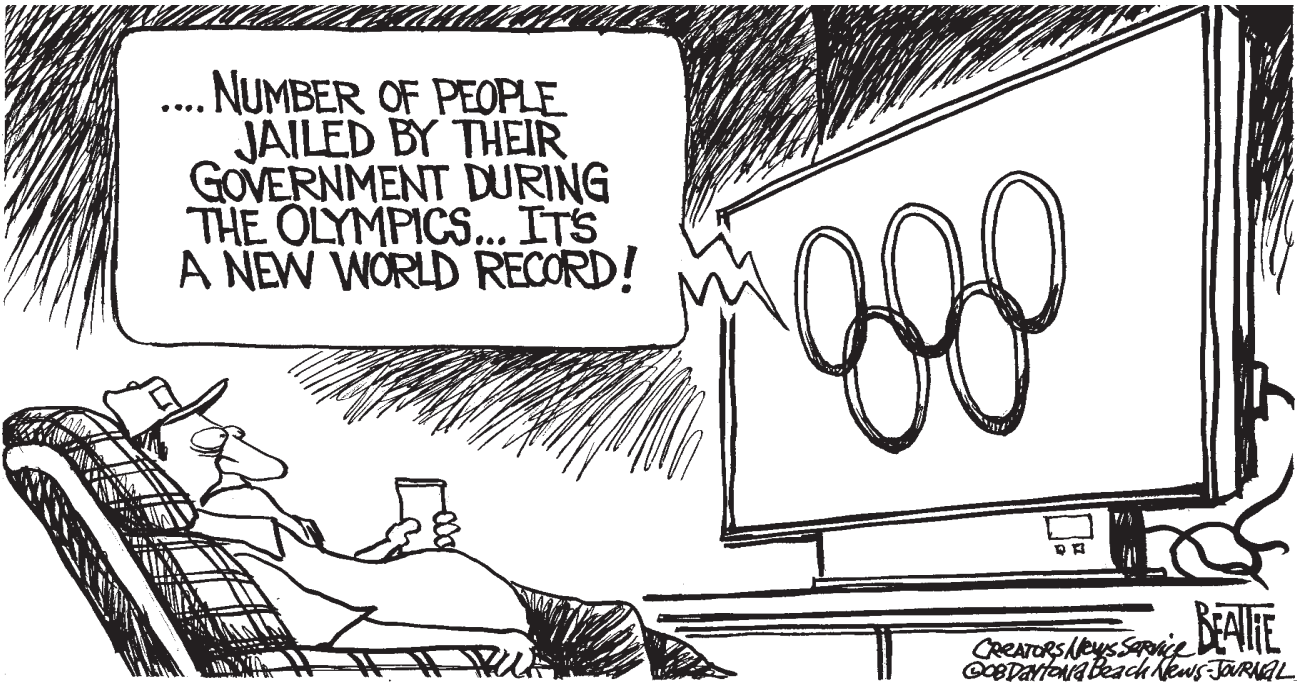
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Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
1918 – 2008



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CAMPUS LIFE

Talk Nerdy to Me

Absence Makes the Lust Grow Harder

By Christine Yu

Each year, MIT sends out convenient fliers to incoming freshmen with all the “important” dates listed. However, they leave off the most important date — the day you “break up with your high school relationship.” Maybe it’s because this date varies for each individual. For some freshmen, they covered this months ago. If you haven’t covered it yet, mark your calendar; the days are limited.

Precocious individual that I am, I broke up with my high school relationship months before I entered college. Even though we had been dating on-again-off-again for four years, I realized that unlimited night and weekend minutes along with frequent flier miles were not enough to survive the midnight fights and sketchy webcamming. Maybe it was because I had been in the relationship for so long, but

the flaws I “loved” slowly turned obnoxious. By the end of our relationship, he no longer seemed “cultured”; instead, it just seemed like he had an Asian fetish.

During our break-up, I wasn’t even sad; I was more excited about my upcoming relationships. Naive as I was, I somehow thought MIT relationships would be better than high school relationships. Then I realized MIT guys usually have severe Asian fetishes due to the lack of decent-looking people on campus. (No flame wars, please, you know it’s true.) So far I’ve come to decide that MIT relationships are equally messed up. They’re

propelled by a series of hook-ups, and then, the “what the hell are we doing?” speech. Also, my high school ex-boyfriend, although not by any means “normal,” is much more “normal” than

some of the guys I’ve dated on campus. I’m tired of hearing flings explained in terms of cost-opportunities — I don’t care if you’re an investment banker, I’m not going to make an investment into a fling.

However, regardless of how messed up dating can be in general, it’s vital to leave your safe haven. People usually stay in long-distance relationships for the stability and security — except, all people need physical activity.

Chances are your long-distance relationship is going to a school with better-looking people. They’re going to get tired of waiting for you to fly the long distances just for the booty call. Or maybe, you’ll make a befuddled blunder with someone on your floor after a night of too much 151. I highly doubt you’re entirely asexual. It’s hard not to give into lust.

It’s really not fair to stay in a secure relationship just for the sake of security. People change quickly in college, and it’s hard to grow when you’re tied down during the process. If you’re really meant to be, you’ll find yourselves later on in life. Breaking up now will spare you pain later — and, if you’re the victim of a break-up — it’ll all be OK. You never know what the future holds — so long as you don’t call your ex 50 times when they’re in a new relationship (*coughs* my high school ex) — there’s still hope for reconciliation years later.

Life’s Lemmas

Alarming Event

By David Shirokoff
STAFF COLUMNIST

For the second time in as many weeks, we awoke to the sound of a female voice. Normally one would embrace such a welcome. Not today.

Accompanied by an intermittent BEEP, the pre-recorded woman explained to us “this is an emergency.” Damn right it’s an emergency — I’m being robbed of my sleep. The police

and firemen are on their way, yet this is one robbery they cannot stop. I crawled out of bed and into my flip-flops. At the same time I read my clock — 4:40 am. I’d been asleep for two hours.

As most individuals know, one is not to use an elevator during a fire, and hence a fire alarm. I have been granted the privilege of a sixth floor penthouse, which means a long descent to the street below. The walk down six

flights is not bad; however, the post-alarm student bottleneck typically jams the elevators. I would count these stairs again, in reverse, on the ascent back up.

As students pour out of the building onto the street, I take the time to look things over. This is an excellent chance to see students caught at their worst. No makeup, cologne, or combed hair here. Not too surprisingly, everyone looks the same as they always do — I

guess this is MIT.

The firemen come. The small collections of female students do not take note. Some stragglers make it out of the building late, walking between the trucks. We wait 15 minutes for readmission. The sun has risen generously in this time. Boston, being on the edge of the east coast, probably sees the sun half an hour before my hometown. I guess there are some perks to waking at 4:40 a.m.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Want a place to say it?

Consider becoming a
Campus Life columnist

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ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★★1/2

*Bring on the Guilty Pleasure**Serious Actors Show How to Have Fun in 'Mamma Mia!'*

By Jillian A. Berry

SENIOR EDITOR

Mamma Mia!

Directed by Phyllida Lloyd

Written by Catherine Johnson

Starring: Amanda Seyfried, Meryl Streep,

Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, and Stellan

Skarsgard

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

In the last few years, musicals have been created by compiling multiple songs from popular artists to tell a story. One of the first, and most successful, of these musicals is *Mamma Mia!* which uses songs from the palindromic Swedish pop group ABBA. It comes as no surprise that Hollywood has decided to make a movie of this long-running musical.

Now, in the interest of total disclosure, I feel I should tell you that I have not seen the live musical version of *Mamma Mia!* How similar or dissimilar the film is to the musical, I cannot say, and this review is based on the film alone.

The plot of *Mamma Mia!* is a simple one. Sophie (played by Amanda Seyfried), who was raised by her single mother Donna (Meryl Streep) on a small Greek Isle, is about to get married to Sky (Dominic Cooper), and she wants to know who her father is so that he can give her away at the wedding. But after reading her mother's diary, Sophie realizes she has three possible dads: Sam Carmichael (Pierce Brosnan), an American architect; Harry Bright (Colin Firth), a British banker; and Bill Austin (Stellan Skarsgard), an Australian writer. To determine which man is her father, Sophie invites them all to her wedding, without telling her mother, and when they arrive, you can imagine all the fun that ensues.

Oh, and all of this is told with the help of those catchy ABBA songs.

The first thing that struck me about this film was the absurdity of the casting, and I mean that in the best way possible. Streep, Brosnan, Firth, and Skarsgard, along with Julie Walters and Christine Baranski in supporting roles, is



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Best friends Ali, Sophie, and Lisa (left to right: Ashley Lilley, Amanda Seyfried, and Rachel McDowall) discuss Sophie's upcoming wedding in *Mamma Mia!*

perhaps the most unlikely group to act and sing in a feel good musical set to a '70s pop soundtrack. (I admit it, I never thought I'd see Colin Firth singing "Dancing Queen.") However, it is this unexpectedness that makes the film work. Each of these actors has enough serious talent to make even the worst movie watchable, but given a fun story with some catchy tunes, I wasn't sure what would happen. Luckily, none of them took him/herself too seriously, and the movie turned out to be pretty entertaining.

Obviously, the biggest star in the movie is Meryl Streep playing the aging hippie mother who isn't sure she wants to let go of her daughter just yet. What impressed me most about her performance was how unglamorous it was; in most scenes, her long blond hair was messily arranged, falling into her makeup free (or nearly free) face, as she moved around in overalls. You can see how old she really is, but she's OK with that. Actually, most of the older stars were

a little rough around the edges (at least by Hollywood standards), and it was refreshing to see actors look their ages with grace and dignity.

While most of the story centers on Donna and her past suitors, Sophie is still an integral part of the movie, and she's played wonderfully by Amanda Seyfried (who really looks like she could be Meryl Streep's daughter). The entire time I was watching the film, I kept wondering where I had seen this actress before, and only after I got home and checked IMDB did I realize she had played Karen Smith (the dumb one) in *Mean Girls*. I was shocked that the girl with the vacant stare could be the same one playing the expressive Sophie. Seyfried certainly makes the most of her role, even if she is often overshadowed by the more senior cast members.

My only really major problem with the film was the pacing. At times the story seemed to move so slowly; I wanted to scream, "We get it, they all loved Donna, now who is the dad?"

This problem was exacerbated by the fact that I really disliked the character of Sky played by Dominic Cooper. There was no chemistry between Seyfried and Cooper, so any scene with him seemed to drag on for me.

For all of these flaws, there were some truly wonderful scenes in the film. My favorite had to be "Dancing Queen" as all of the village women danced their way through this beautiful Greek Isle. I couldn't help but have a smile on my face as I tapped my foot along to the beat, and people in the theater even clapped when the song ended. In addition, there was a bonus scene during the credits with all of the actors in '70s-style sequined jump suits (including the men — yes, even Mr. Darcy and James Bond) singing "Mamma Mia" and "Dancing Queen" that left me laughing until it hurt. *Mamma Mia!* would certainly qualify as a guilty pleasure, but I'd recommend saving the \$10 and renting the DVD when it comes out.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★1/2

*Career Change With a Bang**'Wanted' Provides a Pulp Summer Blockbuster With Exploding Rats*

By Kevin Wang

STAFF WRITER

Wanted

Directed by Timur Bekmambetov

Written by Michael Brandt, Derek Haas, and

Chris Morgan

Starring James McAvoy, Morgan Freeman,

and Angelina Jolie

Now Playing

Much like a music video by Shakira, *Wanted* is living, breathing proof that entertainment and quality are often wholly uncorrelated phenomena. At approximately three parts Mortal Kombat fatality and one part Maxim cover, you would be hard pressed to find a more perfect summer blockbuster.

Wanted tells the tale of accountant Wesley Gibson (played by James McAvoy), as he is abruptly plucked from his dull existence as a

faceless corporate nobody and thrust into the life of a highly trained killer. As the son of a famed assassin, Wesley is recruited by Sloan (Morgan Freeman) and Fox (Angelina Jolie), members of an elite organization of hitmen, to kill a rogue assassin with connections to his father. Upon induction into this "fraternity of assassins," McAvoy's character is bound, beaten, and repeatedly stabbed by a trash-talking butcher, which — oddly enough — is pretty much identical to joining a fraternity in the South minus forced intercourse with animals. The film follows McAvoy through several assassinations, car chases, and a full-out castle assault, providing an extremely entertaining two hours.

The gun fighting scenes of *Wanted* are absolutely stellar. While several of his previous films featured the less-than-serious topics of vampires and Playboy models turned gladiators, director Timur Bekmambetov demonstrates a

keen sense for both drama and brutality and delivers some of the most intense action scenes this side of an episode of "Maury." Above and beyond the film's trademark twisting bullets, *Wanted* features excellent slow-motion shots that exquisitely capture everything from 20-mile sniper shots to a beatdown via ergonomic keyboard. Everything is over the top, from the trails of gore flying out of every bullet-wound, to each time a car flips in slow-motion. Based on the number of times I think about flipping cars during a normal work day, I can only assume that *Wanted* is designed as a massive series of fantasies for anybody who's ever held a desk job.

But it is really the cast of *Wanted*, all of whom are predictably excellent, who save the film from being just another summertime movie with guns. McAvoy captures the perfect blend of nihilist corporate nobody and vengeful killer: just intense enough to be taken seri-

ously, and just pitiful enough to be entertaining (unlike, say, Carrot Top). It's also an excellent touch that McAvoy is a native Scot, for as *Braveheart* proved categorically, it's always best to entrust the Scottish with any and all tasks involving dismemberment. Additionally, some of the film's greatest moments come from ever-placid Morgan Freeman's atypically profane one-liners, culminating in an exhortation to "Shoot this motherfucker right now!" Unfortunately, while these lines are no doubt included to add to *Wanted*'s already sizeable level of badassery, whenever I hear Morgan Freeman speaking with authority I still subconsciously assume that he is talking to or about penguins.

And, of course, there is Angelina Jolie. Even ignoring the fact that she's so beautiful that looking at her approximates blowtorching your corneas, Jolie is actually a fairly effective action star and can almost be taken seriously holding an assault rifle. Moreover, the same mile-wide crazy streak that compels her to collect children like they're baseball cards and make out with her brother (if tabloids are to be believed) lends an excellent sense of maniacal instability to her character. And let's face it, if you were Angelina Jolie's brother, you'd make out with her too. In fact, my one complaint about *Wanted* would be that it fails to deliver the full-out anatomical treatment of Jolie that the trailers appeared to imply.

The best part about *Wanted* is that it knows it sucks and drowns the suckage in a constant stream of bullets and explosions. The plot of the movie may be more convoluted than a montage of M. Night Shyamalan movie endings, but with a constant supply of bullets, bombs, and exploding rats, I can't imagine what else you'd ever need.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Wesley (played by James McAvoy) hunts down his would-be killers in *Wanted*.

INTERNET REVIEW

The Dr. Horrible Internet Spectacular

A Sing-Along for the Ages

By Nick Semenkovich
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog
Directed by Joss Whedon
Written by Maurissa Tancharoen, Jed Whedon,
Joss Whedon, and Zack Whedon
Starring Neil Patrick Harris, Nathan Fillion, and
Felicia Day
Available online and on iTunes

Don't make the same mistake I did; at least wait for the singing to start. It is, after all, a sing-along.
Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog is definitely the surprise hit of the summer. The blog/musical turned Internet craze is a glorious mashup of clever show tunes on top of a quirky and somewhat nerdy plot. That said, I almost missed the glorious masterpiece that is *Dr. Horrible*.
The first two minutes feel a bit like a sad You-

Tube video made in someone's basement (which, in retrospect, was probably what the director intended). It doesn't do a great job of drawing in viewers, and, having a stunningly short attention span, I stopped watching only a minute or two in. I was only barely saved by one of my co-workers at the New York Googleplex, who said I had to watch the whole thing. Trust me, you need to wait for the singing to start.
In the three videos, Neil Patrick Harris (for those of us a bit too young for *Doogie Howser, M.D.*, he's best known for his *Harold & Kumar* role) plays a nascent evil villain (Dr. Horrible) who is struggling to establish his notoriety when he falls for Penny (played by Felicia Day). Penny, a woman who goes to the same laundromat as Dr. Horrible, is wooed by the good superhero Captain Hammer (played by Nathan Fillion) when one of Dr. Horrible's evil plans goes awry. Dr. Horrible then tries to win back Penny, all while concocting

an evil plan to take care of Captain Hammer once and for all.
The *Dr. Horrible* blog postings-turned series were the brainchild of Joss Whedon, the creator of *Firefly* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Whedon made the show during the Writer's Strike, and plans to release a DVD with a musical commentary track.
What makes *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog* particularly lovable is the dialogue. It's tempting to open the video in a Firefox tab and go back to your e-mail, but you'll miss a lot of the hilarious dialogue. I'm a fan of the lines of Dr. Horrible's co-conspirator Moist (played by Simon Helberg), who can ... make things moist.
Not only is *Dr. Horrible* a great use of 43 minutes (really, you weren't doing anything else important), it's just the right mix of catchy tunes, a semi-predictable plot, and passable attempts at wittiness. This is definitely one to watch a few times. Check it out at *drhorrible.com*.

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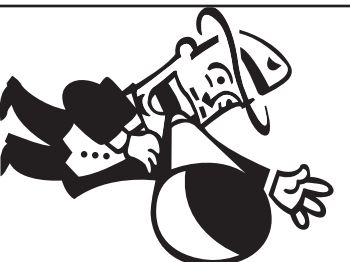
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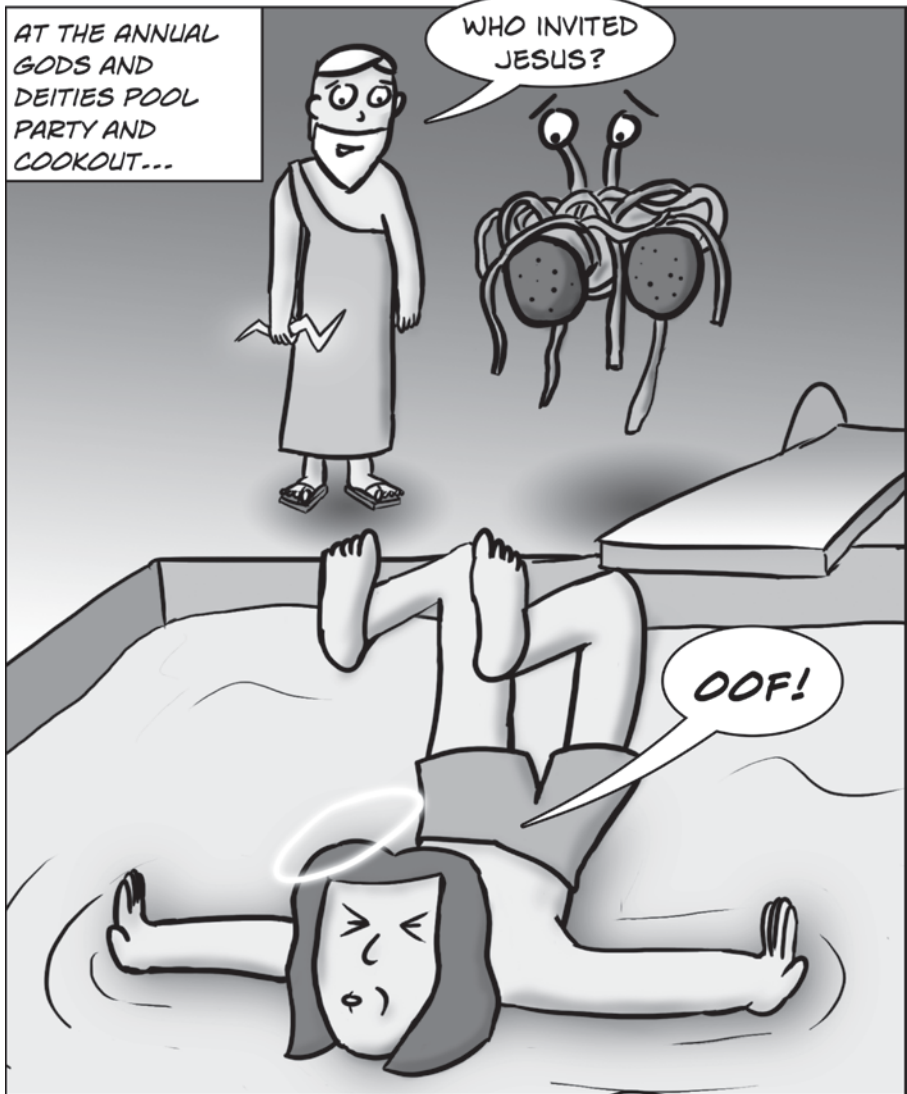
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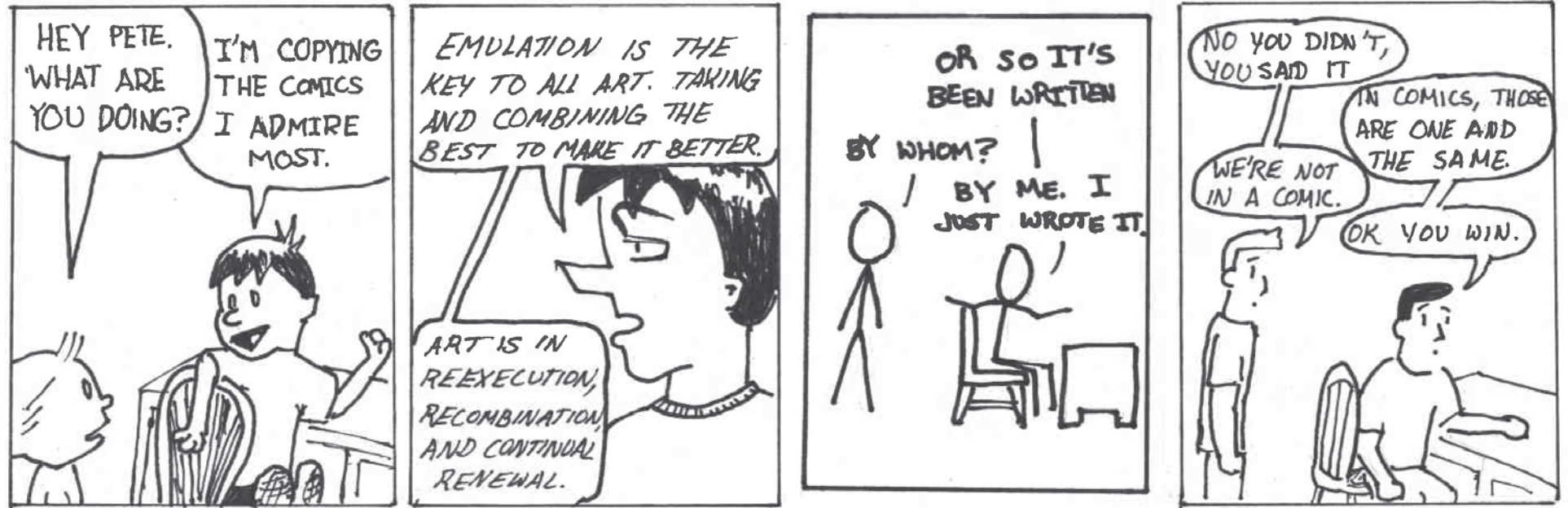
by Michael Ciuffo



For more of Michael Ciuffo's comics visit www.stealmycomic.com.

Theory of Pete

by Cai GoGwilt



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

1 Cartesian x-coordinate of a point

9 Kissed glancingly

15 Function in opposition

16 Loosen, as boots

17 Neat and wholesome

18 "We hold these ___ to be..."

19 Assumed haughtiness

20 Plans of action

22 Thick

24 Overhangs

25 Stout relative

26 Olympics categories

28 Links vehicle

29 Rocky pinnacle

30 Venus' doubles partner

31 Minor spasm

32 Pockmark

33 Quarterback takedown

35 Skywalker

37 Rumble

40 Singer Ocasek

42 Diminutive size

46 Social insect

47 Sheltered valley

48 Mariners

49 Willy

50 Makes unemployed

52 Signaled as a boatswain

53 Offset

56 Baseball team

57 Operate an aircraft

58 Old Dominion

60 "Gentleman Jim" of country

61 Place in jeopardy

DOWN

1 Places for video games

2 Have faith

3 More austere

4 Boorish characteristic

5 Charged particle

6 Pouches

7 Scale on the underside of a snake

8 Exercise a pull

9 Flowers avoided by livestock

10 Disturbance

11 Haul off and belt

12 Surfeit

13 Level of authority

14 Profiterole or pie

21 Effective use

23 Sicilian tourist attraction

27 Holy quality

32 Keeping in custody

34 Bumps off

36 Castle stronghold

37 Eyelash thickener

38 Not cared for

39 Thwarted

41 Splits apart or sticks together

43 Encroach

44 Even more minute

45 Wins over by charm

47 Scale watcher

51 Job shift

54 Do some road work

55 Mother of Brunhilde

59 Joke or choke

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57							58			59			
60							61						
62							63						

Doonesbury Flashbacks

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Bonus Crossword

Solution, page 13

DOWN

- 1 Sacks
- 2 Dynamic opening?
- 3 Bread
- 4 No time at all
- 5 Baby's first seat
- 6 With caution
- 7 In unison
- 8 Take the bus
- 9 Dillon of "Drugstore Cowboy"
- 10 Kind of battery
- 11 Elongated sea creature
- 12 Commotion
- 13 In favor of
- 19 Last of a million?
- 21 Actress Darby
- 23 Coconut fiber
- 25 No-frills drawing of a man
- 26 Chewy candy
- 27 Netlike caps
- 28 Political refugee

- 29 Bill of game shows
- 30 Actor Mineo
- 31 Computer of "2001..."
- 33 Egyptian god of pleasure
- 37 Storm center
- 38 Tycoon Turner
- 39 Poet Teasdale
- 42 Oil quantities
- 45 Japanese warrior
- 47 Pigeon calls
- 48 Landmarks of heaped stones
- 49 Pub serving
- 51 Viewpoint
- 53 Warbled
- 54 Chills and fever
- 56 Caron film
- 57 Logical beginning?
- 58 Train unit
- 59 Wonderment
- 60 Land of sleep

- 61 Actress Ruby
- ACROSS
- 1 Aromatic herb
 - 6 Toasty
 - 10 Unable to hear
 - 14 MetLife competitor
 - 15 Largest continent
 - 16 Make over
 - 17 Understand
 - 18 "The Birds" star
 - 20 Gentle
 - 21 Type of energy
 - 22 Effortless
 - 24 Musical pauses
 - 28 Class of travel
 - 30 Spike Lee's first name
 - 32 Civilian dress
 - 33 Cote call
 - 34 Accounting acronym
 - 35 Unwell
 - 36 Passes gossip

- 40 Money-managing exec.
- 41 Silver-tongued
- 43 Affirmative
- 44 Inquired
- 46 Sandblasted, perhaps
- 48 Decanters
- 50 First month in Madrid
- 51 Deli purchase
- 52 Romberg operetta
- 55 Citrus hybrid
- 58 Raw sucrose
- 61 Ancient Welsh priest
- 62 G.I. absentee
- 63 Sam or Trevor
- 64 "Guitar Town" singer Steve
- 65 Cincinnati nine
- 66 Acquires
- 67 MacDonald's refrain

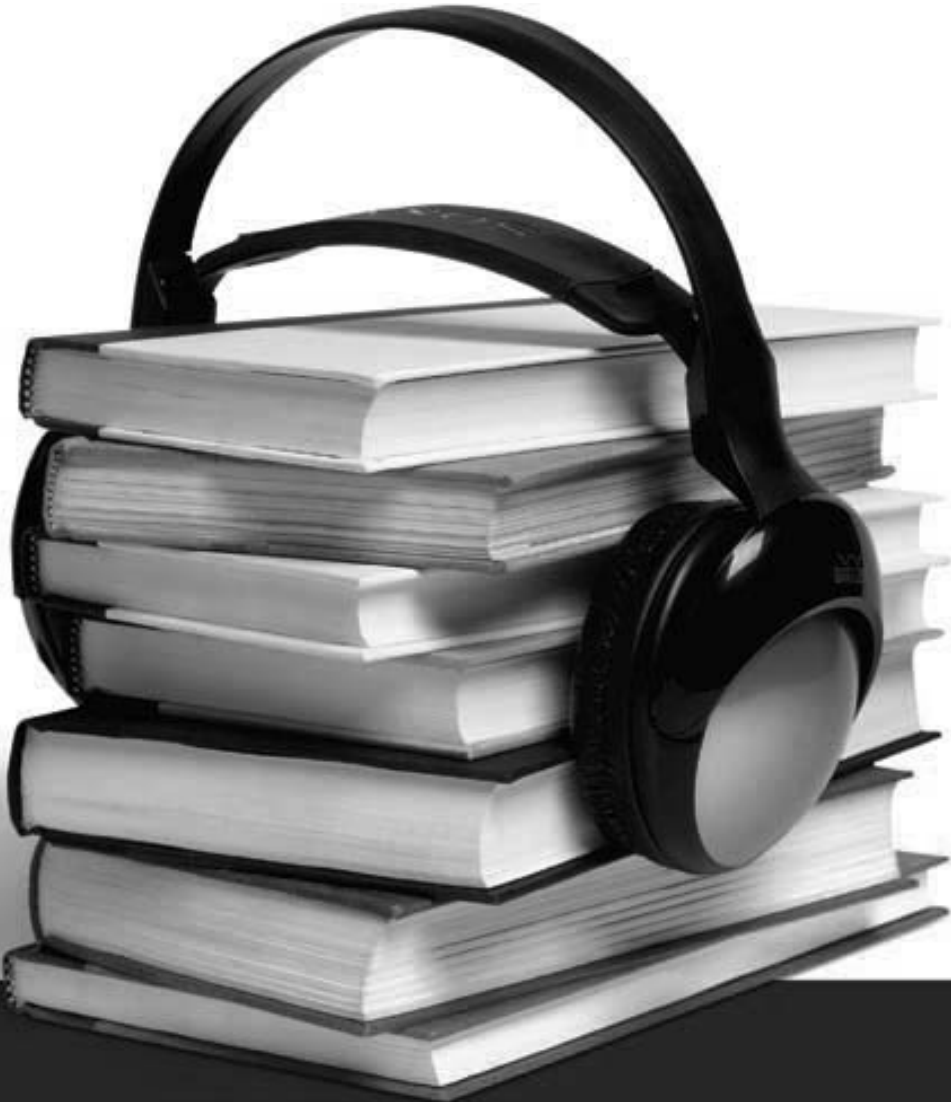
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18				19				
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		22		23						24		25	26	27
28	29							30	31					
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46				47				48	49					
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				52		53	54				55		56	57
58	59	60								61				
62					63					64				
65					66					67				

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Colleges Grow More Earth-Conscious to Lure New Students

By Tracy Jan
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Harvard pledged this month to slash its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2016. The University of New Hampshire became the first school in the nation this year to use landfill methane gas as its prime energy source. And the College of the Atlantic in Maine plans to open green dormitories with composting toilets in August.

Colleges across the country are rolling out a host of environmentally friendly initiatives, expanding beyond campus recycling and energy efficient buildings to hire sustainability officers to oversee all environmental programs. The push coincides with the rise of “green college” rankings and as the schools use their new policies and practices as a recruiting tool for students who came of age during the release of “An Inconvenient Truth,” former vice president Al Gore’s popular documentary about global warming.

“The current generation of students wants to go to schools that take their environmental responsibility seriously,” said Julian Dautremont-Smith, associate director of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, based in Lexington, Ky. “In the last two or three years, it’s really picked up, past some sort of tipping point.”

The rising fervor around environmental initiatives has launched Harvard, UNH, and the College of the Atlantic into the ranks of the nation’s top green colleges, a new category in Princeton Review’s “Best 368 Colleges.”

The three colleges are among the 11 that received a top rating, a list that includes two other New England schools: Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, which started a Zipcar program and a bicycle co-op last year; and Yale University, which generates 50 percent of the power for a divinity school dormitory from solar panels and plans to add solar technology to other buildings next school year.

More than ever, prospective students are judging colleges on their environmental stewardship, along with the traditional rankings of academics, dorm food, and the party scene, said Rob Franek, vice president of Princeton Review and the annual book’s author.

In the Review’s latest survey, 63 percent of college applicants and their parents said they wanted more information about a college’s commitment to the environment; a quarter of them said it would strongly impact their decision to apply or attend a school.

“Students are exposed to sustainability initiatives at a younger age, so they expect the same from their undergraduate schools, and colleges feel obliged to make them available,” Franek said.

Colleges are eyeing each other’s initiatives, as the green movement, once confined to the edges of campus life where students living in co-ops would grow vegetables and compost waste, goes mainstream and the schools scramble to outdo one another.

Harvard, with 24 full-time staff members carrying out its Green Campus Initiative, supports the largest university organization in the world devoted to sustainability work, said Leith Sharp, the program’s director.

Harvard pays its students to promote conservation efforts and holds an annual competition to honor the most Earth-friendly residence hall for recycling and reducing energy and water consumption. The winning dorm takes home the Green Cup, a

trophy fashioned out of an old beer keg spray-painted forest green.

The conservation efforts — which include using the cold water setting when doing laundry, taking only what students think they will eat in the dining hall, and shutting windows in the winter — are paying off, saving the university at least \$400,000 a year, Sharp said. Electricity use in undergraduate dorms decreased 15 percent within three years of launching the initiative, and recycling increased by more than 30 percent, she said. Dining halls have seen a 33 percent reduction in food waste.

“About a year or two ago, we hit this critical mass within the university, where the issue of greening the campus was no longer a fringe issue,” Sharp said. “It became a central concern.”

Harvard dining halls serve organic produce, compost food waste, and organize weekly farmers markets. Its recycling truck is fueled by waste-kitchen oil. The university also subsidizes half the cost of public transit

passes for students and staff and rewards carpoolers with prime parking spots, while raising the price of on-campus parking, resulting in a 10 percent reduction in single-occupant car trips in the last six years, she said.

Students have also pressured university leaders to stay at the forefront of the green curve. Harvard’s Environmental Action Committee, an undergraduate environmental advocacy and political group, got 4,500 students to sign a petition last winter urging Drew Faust, university president, to expand teaching and research on climate, energy, and sustainability, and commit to the bold greenhouse gas initiative.

“Students are used to seeing Harvard as a leader in most things,” said Zachary Arnold, a junior and cochairman of the committee. “Without a strong commitment and active engagement with this issue, Harvard was in danger of losing its leadership.”

Bay State schools that did not make Princeton Review’s list of top green colleges this year tout recognition in other rankings.

MIT ranked among the nation’s top 25 schools in a recent report card issued by the Sustainable Endowments Institute. A rainwater harvesting system on the school’s Cambridge campus cuts potable water use in half. And next year, the university expects to introduce renewable, plant-based biodiesel fuel for its vehicles. It is also studying the potential of mounting wind turbines on several campus buildings.

Interest in environmental sustainability has grown so much among MIT students that the university made grants of up to \$20,000 last year to encourage students to pursue energy research, such as mapping energy use in buildings across campus, said Steven Lanou, deputy director for environmental sustainability. The university, like several others, is also developing new courses addressing the issue.

Sierra Magazine, which bestowed the title of “original green school” on Tufts University for developing the nation’s first university environmental policy in 1990, named the school one of the top 10 greenest in the country last year. Dorms hold a monthlong energy conservation competition called “Do It In the Dark!”

“The rankings themselves bring credibility to the issue and will push students to think about this in their selection criteria,” said Sarah Hammond Creighton, director of Tufts’s office of sustainability.

New Committee Will Help Decide Future of Simmons Dining Services

Simmons Dining, from Page 1

trial in a e-mail that sparked a flurry of communication between Simmons residents, housemasters John and Ellen Essigmann, Dining Services, and MIT administrators who have been involved in Simmons Dining. Some students who had enjoyed AYCTE dining in the spring were happy to hear that the pilot program would be continuing, but many students were angry because they felt that their house vote to return to a la carte dining had been ignored.

“Most people’s concern was that the residents of Simmons actually got a say in this. People felt their decision had been summarily disregarded,” Simmons resident Josiah W. Schwab ’09 said.

Benedict’s e-mail also detailed several physical changes to Simmons Dining that would make the dining area more accommodating for the AYCTE system. These changes included an increase in the capacity of the stir fry station and more flexibility to switch between serve and self-serve options. Some Simmons residents took these changes as reason to believe that Benedict and other administrators had in fact considered their opinions and concerns.

“I viewed the e-mail as the administration acknowledging that there were problems with the system the way it was,” Simmons Dining Chair Daniel P. Lorenc ’10 said.

Following Benedict’s e-mail and the responses from students, Benedict, Nilsson, the Simmons housemasters, and Dining Services decided not to go through with the pilot.

The first notice that Simmons would be returning to an a la carte system for the fall came in an e-mail reply on July 29 from Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD ’75 to Sarah E. Whiteside ’11, a Simmons resident who had e-mailed administrators complaining about Benedict’s AYCTE announcement.

Further notification of the change came in an e-mail to Simmons residents from the dorm’s housemasters and, finally, in an official e-mail from Nilsson on Thursday.

Dining committee to be formed

The formation of a dining committee represents a departure from the way in which Simmons had pre-

viously made decisions on dining issues, which was with house votes.

“There are lots of ways to decide things and I’m not necessarily sure that a vote is the best way,” Nilsson said. “We found ourselves in a bit of a quagmire ... I think bringing a group together will allow us to move forward.”

After experiencing several close votes on dining in the past year — twice on whether or not to go forward with AYCTE trials and once on whether or not to continue AYCTE dining in the fall — many students welcome the change in the decision-making process.

“I think forming a committee is the best solution to the flame wars and debate that seem to sprout up once AYCTE is mentioned,” said Marcella R. Vokey ’11. “If we continue to vote, I doubt the results will change and we won’t have made any progress. But if both people who agree and disagree with AYCTE sign up for this committee, I think we could come up with a compromise or at least some new ideas.”

Christine J. Hazlett ’11 agreed that having a committee would help a lot. “I don’t think the votes were very useful since they were all so close.”

Though there will be no overhauls to Simmons Dining in the fall, Nilsson hopes some smaller changes being implemented will improve Dining immediately. First, James Lachance will be coming to Simmons as executive chef, and Dining Services will also work to provide better vegetarian entrees.

Many concerns to address

The new dining committee will face the challenging task of trying to satisfy as many residents as possible in a dorm that is currently divided in its opinions.

Some students strongly prefer the AYCTE dining system and are excited by the possibility of it returning next spring.

“I felt that the food quality and selections improved, and I ended up paying less for each meal,” Lorenc said. “With the trial, there was incentive to stay in the dining hall and that created a sense of community. The number of people eating at the dining hall increased.”

Paul T. Miyazaki ’10 and Paresh G. Malalur ’10 also said they paid

less for each meal, food quality improved, and that a sense of community was fostered. “We would hang out in the dining hall for a while, and we got to know each other better,” Malalur said.

Other students adamantly oppose the reinstatement of AYCTE, citing concerns that, at times, directly contradict the opinions of AYCTE supporters.

Whiteside and Schwab both thought that the food quality and selection was worse, and both said they paid more for their dinner.

They also said that AYCTE was too inflexible. “For someone who just wanted an entree and a vegetable and fruit, there was no similar low cost option with AYCTE,” Schwab said.

Whiteside thought the AYCTE system might discourage community because students could not enter the dining hall without paying for dinner during the trial. That made it impossible for her to sit with friends who were eating dinner if she did not want to buy dinner or only wanted a snack, Whiteside said.

Other students have no strong preferences for either system.

Hazlett counts herself among “a whole bunch of people [who] don’t really care very much” about the format of dining.

Students and administrators also hold different opinions about which of the controversial issues matter most.

While cost was a large concern for many students, some preferred AYCTE even though they paid more for it. Vokey said that even though she spent about \$1.50 more on dinner, she liked the AYCTE trial because “I can’t argue with the chance to sit down for a meal, relax, and actually see other Simmons residents.”

Nilsson declined to comment on cost concerns. “I think that quite often we concentrate on solely money as opposed to what is being offered that will fuel a sense of community,” Nilsson said. “I don’t want Dining to be solely a financial discussion.”

Despite the recent controversy, many Simmons residents and administrators express optimism for the future of Simmons dining.

Lorenc hopes to try to please as many students as possible by considering options that combine AYCTE and a la carte options.

MIT Files Patent Suit Against Biotech Company Affymetrix Over Gene Chips

Affymetrix, from Page 1

On July 3, Affymetrix filed a notice about the lawsuit to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The notice stated, “We believe that the plaintiffs’ claims are without merit and will vigorously defend against the claims advanced in the complaint.” According to its Web site, Affymetrix invented its GeneChip technology in the late 1980s, with the company now offering “the gold standard tool for analyzing complex genetic information.”

The Affymetrix public relations manager declined to comment, citing pending litigation. The plaintiffs and their attorneys also declined to comment.

MIT and Affymetrix have clashed before, as the MIT complaint reveals. In 2004, the U.S. patent office assigned MIT the patent, naming Housman as co-inventor. A year later, Affymetrix sought a patent for

the same technology, therefore provoking the patent office to interfere. In 2007, the patent office determined Housman and his associates as the inventors.

“The fact that the patent interference was decided in MIT’s favor was an important milestone,” Housman said in an e-mail. “The steps which have been taken more recently are also important in resolving this case to reflect the value of the intellectual property which was created at MIT.”

The technology causing the dispute is essentially an efficient DNA microarray. According to the complaint filed by MIT, the technology allows users to cost-effectively analyze genes with minute DNA samples and few reactants, yet yielding results previously considered impossible, even in laboratories employing thousands of different reactants.

DNA microarrays, also known as gene chips, are commonly used in a variety of disciplines such as

gene expression analysis, toxicology, and forensic analysis. The chips are single-use, can be customized for a specific organism or to target certain genes, and cost about \$200 to \$400 dollars each.

Besides supplying products to MIT laboratories, Affymetrix actually has ties to MIT and Harvard’s Broad Institute, collaborating with Broad to develop some of its newest gene chips. How the lawsuit will affect the relationship is unknown.

If MIT wins, up to three times the damages plus interest and attorney’s fees could be awarded, a hefty amount since its claims affect a crucial component of Affymetrix’s business, worth \$603 million. Affymetrix faced a similar lawsuit against competitor Illumina four years ago in which the jury awarded Affymetrix \$90 million. Patent litigation is not uncommon, especially in the field of biotechnology, with most of the cases settled outside the court.

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Anna Tang’s Motion For More Freedoms Denied Wednesday

By Austin Chu
STAFF REPORTER

A motion to grant Anna L. Tang greater freedoms was denied in a hearing on Wednesday at Middlesex Superior Court. Tang, a former Wellesley College student, is accused of stabbing Wolfe B. Styke ’10 seven times in his Next House residence on Oct. 23, 2007.

Tang has been under house arrest since she was released on \$10,000 bail on Jan. 9. She is currently allowed to leave her Framingham apartment only for church, counseling appointments, and workouts in the exercise room at her apartment complex.

Tang’s lawyer filed a motion to allow her to “travel independently by public transportation when feasible,” to attend two classes at either Framingham State College or Massachusetts Bay Community College, to attend “yoga, ballet, cooking and/or art classes twice a week,” and to attend circus classes at Simply Circus in Newton, Mass.

Oral arguments centered around her request to be allowed to attend classes at Framingham State College or Massachusetts Bay Community College. In the end, Judge Diane M. Kottmyer ruled that the motion was

“premature,” as Tang had yet to actually enroll at either college. Kottmyer denied the motion without prejudice, indicating that she might reconsider it at a later time.

Robert A. George, Tang’s attorney, called the situation “a Catch-22 within another Catch-22.” According to George, the counseling Tang is receiving as a condition for her release is being paid for by Tang’s student insurance, but Tang must be an actively enrolled student to remain eligible for that insurance. George noted that the judge is unwilling to grant the motion allowing Tang to attend classes without paperwork indicating that Tang has already enrolled, but that enrolling itself requires paying tuition up front.

The Middlesex District Attorney’s Office did not respond to requests for comment.

The hearing on non-evidentiary motions has been continued to Aug. 18. George said that he would be refiling the motion to modify Tang’s bail conditions on that date. Sept. 12 has been set as the date for hearing motions to suppress evidence, the final pretrial conference is scheduled for Dec. 15, and the trial is currently scheduled for Jan. 5.



SAN DIEGO—Giant panda Bai Yun rests in the enclosure she shares with her cub Zhen Zhen (whose name means “Precious”) at the San Diego Zoo. The zoo celebrated Zhen Zhen’s first birthday on Aug. 3, 2008 with a cake made of ice, bamboo, honey, protein biscuits, and other treats. Zhen Zhen’s big sister, Su Lin, celebrated her third birthday on Aug. 2, 2008 and also received a cake.

Obituaries

Alexander Vladimir d’Arbeloff ’49

MIT NEWS OFFICE

Alexander Vladimir d’Arbeloff ’49, a visionary entrepreneur who co-founded Boston-based high-tech company Teradyne before becoming the eighth chairman of the MIT Corporation, died peacefully on Tuesday, July 8, surrounded by family. He was 80.

As chairman of the MIT Corporation, d’Arbeloff provided crucial leadership for the Calculated Risks, Creative Revolutions fundraising campaign, which had a transformative effect on the Institute — from the physical campus to its research agenda. The campaign ushered in cutting-edge facilities such as the Al and Barrie Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center and the Ray and Maria Stata Center and also sparked a new emphasis on the intersection between the life sciences and engineering at MIT.

With his wife, Brit SM ’61, d’Arbeloff created the Fund for Excellence in MIT Education to support teaching innovations in science and engineering. The pair also supported a professorship in the MIT Department of Mechanical Engineering and established the d’Arbeloff Lab in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

“All of us privileged to know Alex are deeply saddened by his loss,” said MIT President Susan Hockfield. “MIT has lost an extraordinary friend who paired his passionate devotion to the Institute with a brilliantly dispassionate, clear-eyed view of how it could grow even stronger. Through the d’Arbeloff Fund for Excellence in MIT Education, among many other gifts, Alex and Brit tapped a deep vein of creativity that has transformed MIT. We will sorely miss his warmth, charm, humor and remarkable gift for framing complex problems and inspiring visionary solutions.”

D’Arbeloff was born in 1927 in Paris to parents who had fled the Russian Revolution a decade earlier, and his family led a nomadic existence during his adolescence. As the clouds of war gathered in Europe, the d’Arbeloffs moved to South America in 1936, to New York two years later and to Los Angeles the following year, before returning to New York in 1940.

After graduating from MIT with a bachelor’s in management, d’Arbeloff found that his can-do attitude didn’t always sit well with superiors. In later years he was proud to note that he was fired from three jobs during a 10-year period, and that while serving in the U.S. Army reserves, his commanding officer berated him for having “antagonized every officer” at their post.

“I didn’t feel I had,” d’Arbeloff told an interviewer in 1997, recalling the episode. “I didn’t do it on purpose. I just wanted to do more than they were willing to do.”

In 1960, d’Arbeloff co-founded Teradyne Inc. with Nick DeWolf — a former MIT classmate whom he had met when they had to line up alphabetically during an ROTC class. During his tenure as president and CEO of Teradyne, which manufactures automatic test equipment and interconnection systems for the electronics and tele-

communications industries, the company’s annual sales rose from \$13 million to more than \$1 billion.

In 1997, he was named chairman of the MIT Corporation, having served as a member since 1989. At the time, he said he was aware of the differences between academia and the business world but preferred to focus on the common ground they shared.

“You begin, in both cases, with talented people. Then you have to develop an effective organization and instill a sense of mission. You have to strive to win. And, ultimately, you have to provide something of value to society,” he said.

“MIT is a great institution, with great impact on the nation and the world. I am truly honored to have been given this opportunity to serve as MIT’s chairman and to contribute to an institution of this level of excellence, this magnitude, and one that has such an impact on society.”

D’Arbeloff became honorary chairman of the Corporation after stepping down as chairman in 2003. As a professor of the practice, he taught at the MIT Sloan School of Management and the Department of Mechanical Engineering. D’Arbeloff also served on the board of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research.

Friends and colleagues recalled his humor, his thoughtfulness, his dedication to his family and his devotion to MIT.

President Emeritus Charles M. Vest characterized d’Arbeloff as a dynamic personality who constantly strove for improvement and who possessed “one of the most active minds” he had ever seen.

“As chairman of the MIT Corporation, Alex properly and productively challenged the ways in which academia functions. His rethinking of MIT’s budgeting processes was invaluable,” Vest said. “He radiated energy, loved to challenge ideas, and was as at home in a classroom as in his board room. He left a great legacy in Boston and MIT.”

Paul Gray, president emeritus and professor of electrical engineering and computer science, emeritus, recalled how d’Arbeloff spoke about the importance of the years that followed his graduation from MIT.

“When we first met he told me about his early post-MIT career experiences which included several tough reviews and dismissals. These led to his decision — brilliant in hindsight — to start his own company, which has been a genuine success, validating his management style,” Gray said.

D’Arbeloff was the recipient of a lifetime achievement award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and a director of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. He also served on the boards of several corporations and on the board of the Whitehead Institute, which he chaired from 2004 to 2006.

He is survived by his wife, Brit; daughters, Katherine and Alexandra; sons, Eric and Matthew; and six grandchildren.

Charles Yardley Chittick ’22

MIT NEWS OFFICE

Charles Yardley Chittick ’22, who was honored this past June as the oldest MIT alumnus, died on Friday, July 18. He was 107.

While a student at MIT, Chittick was elected captain of the one-mile relay track team. He graduated from MIT with an SB in engineering administration with a mechanical engineering option, a course that has since been absorbed by the MIT Sloan School of Management. He was also a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Chittick lived most recently at a retirement community in New Hampshire, but was a regular visitor to MIT’s campus. He was commonly seen at the annual Tech Day Luncheon at Commencement, and celebrated his 86th reunion this past June.

Chittick was also an alum of Phillips Academy, where

he roomed across the hall from — and feuded with — Humphrey Bogart, who was a classmate. He was Phillips Academy’s oldest living alumnus, recently celebrating his 90th reunion there this year. He was also the oldest living Beta Theta Pi member and oldest living patent lawyer.

After leaving MIT, Chittick was offered a job by Thomas Edison, but ultimately turned it down to take a job with a manufacturing company that produced golf clubs.

“I had to tell Mr. Edison ‘Thanks, but no thanks.’ I went to work for a company that manufactured golf clubs. I guess I was more interested in golf than I was in a laboratory,” Chittick told the News Office in 2001.

LEGAL COUNSEL

MIT students, family, employers and start-ups seeking U.S. legal counsel, campus or office consultation. Call: James Dennis Leary, Esq. 321-544-0012

Solution to Sudoku

from page 8

2	5	4	9	1	6	8	3	7
9	3	8	4	7	2	5	6	1
7	6	1	3	5	8	2	4	9
6	2	9	8	3	7	1	5	4
4	7	3	5	2	1	9	8	6
8	1	5	6	9	4	7	2	3
5	8	7	1	6	3	4	9	2
3	9	2	7	4	5	6	1	8
1	4	6	2	8	9	3	7	5

Solution to Crossword

from page 8

A	B	S	C	I	S	S	A	B	U	S	S	E	D
R	E	T	R	O	A	C	T	U	N	L	A	C	E
C	L	E	A	N	C	U	T	T	R	U	T	H	S
A	I	R	S	S	T	R	A	T	E	G	I	E	S
D	E	N	S	E	E	A	V	E	S	A	L	E	
E	V	E	N	T	S	C	A	R	T	T	O	R	
S	E	R	E	N	A	T	I	C	D	E	N	T	
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M	U	S	S	R	I	C	P	E	T	I	T	E	
A	N	T	D	E	L	L	S	E	A	M	E	N	
S	L	Y	I	D	L	E	S	P	I	P	E	D	
C	O	M	P	E	N	S	A	T	E	N	I	N	E
A	V	I	A	T	E	V	I	R	G	I	N	I	A
R	E	E	V	E	S	E	N	D	A	N	G	E	R
A	D	D	E	R	S	S	T	A	G	G	E	R	S

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Aafia Siddiqui accused by DOJ Shot by Army Officer in Scuffle

Siddiqui, from Page 1

excerpt from the complaint at right. For a full copy of the complaint, see <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V128/N30/siddiqui/siddiqui-aafia-complaint.pdf>.)

The complaint states that the officer returned fire with his pistol and wounded Siddiqui.

The injured Siddiqui was transferred to the hospital at Bagram Air Force Base, about 30 miles north of Kabul, according to Lt. Col. Rumi Nielson-Greene, a spokesperson for Combined Joint Task Force 101, which manages the Bagram base.

Nielson-Greene said that Siddiqui received “the exact same” medical treatment that a U.S. soldier would have received for her wounds, and “absolutely nothing was withheld.” Bagram’s hospital is the best medical facility in Afghanistan, Nielson-Greene said. Siddiqui was treated at Bagram for the next two weeks, and recovered to the point of being “ambulatory.”

On Monday, Aug. 4, Siddiqui was transported to New York City, at which time the Department of Justice released the complaint. Siddiqui was arraigned on Tuesday morning, and her next appearance in court is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 11.

Siddiqui’s New York lawyer, Fink, raised questions of Siddiqui’s treatment in an interview Wednesday. She said that Siddiqui had an “oozing wound” and had received neither antibiotics nor painkillers.

Sharp said that Siddiqui is “still very frail” and that Siddiqui said her wound has an odor to it, raising concerns about infection.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney’s office had no comment on Siddiqui’s medical condition.

Fink is a public defender based in New York, who is working jointly with Sharp, who is Boston-based.

Sam Zarifi, the Asia-Pacific director for Amnesty International, said, “The idea that American troops were somehow overpowered and could only deal with her by shooting her — it’s certainly a very suspicious story. At the very least, it suggests gross incompetence and a violation of ‘Policing 101’” on the part of the American troops.

The New York Times characterized the Ghazni official, Jahangir, second-hand, as “challenging the American government’s version of events.”

Jahangir maintains that Siddiqui was in good condition and had not been shot, but that was when she was turned over to the Afghan police, not the United States. Jahangir represents the provincial governor, who was involved in the initial arrest of Siddiqui.

A person answering the phone at the Afghan Ministry of the Interior said that the woman and boy arrested in Ghazni were “under the custody of the Police.” When asked if she had

a. On or about July 18, 2008, a party of United States personnel, including two FBI special agents, a United States Army Warrant Officer (the “Warrant Officer”), a United States Army Captain (the “Captain”), and United States military interpreters, arrived at the Afghan facility where AAFIA SIDDQUI, the defendant, was being held.

b. The personnel entered a second floor meeting room. A yellow curtain was stretched across the length of that room, concealing a portion of it from sight. None of the United States personnel were aware that SIDDQUI was being held, unsecured, behind the curtain.

c. The Warrant Officer took a seat with a solid wall behind him and the curtain to his right. The Warrant Officer placed his United States Army M-4 rifle on the floor to his right next to the curtain, near his right foot. The weapon was loaded, but was on safe.

d. Shortly after the meeting began, the Captain heard a woman’s voice yell from the vicinity of the curtain. The Captain turned to the noise and saw SIDDQUI in the portion of the room behind the curtain, which was now drawn slightly back. SIDDQUI was holding the Warrant Officer’s rifle and pointing it directly at the Captain.

e. The Captain heard SIDDQUI say in English, “May the blood of [unintelligible] be directly on your [unintelligible, possibly head or hands].” The Captain saw an interpreter (“Interpreter 1”), who was seated closest to SIDDQUI, lunge at SIDDQUI and push the rifle away as SIDDQUI pulled the trigger.

f. The Warrant Officer saw and heard SIDDQUI fire at least two shots as Interpreter 1 tried to wrestle the gun from her. No one was hit. The Warrant Officer heard SIDDQUI exclaim, “Allah Akbar!” Another interpreter (“Interpreter 2”) heard SIDDQUI yell in English, “Get the fuck out of here”, as she fired the rifle. The Warrant Officer returned fire with a 9 mm service pistol and fired approximately two rounds at SIDDQUI’s torso, hitting her at least once.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Excerpt from the sworn criminal complaint against Siddiqui, describing the gunfight between her and U.S. military and FBI personnel.

been handed over to the U.S., he said “it is not true.”

“No, she was not shot. She was arrested. ... She wanted to a suicide attack on the Governor of Ghazni [sic],” the person said.

Allegations of detainment

Sharp maintains that Siddiqui has been held by the United States at the Bagram Theatre Internment Facility at Bagram Air Base since her disappearance in 2003.

United States representatives fiercely deny this claim. “I can confirm, absolutely, I was here. She has never been in our detention facility,” said Nielson-Greene, the spokesperson at Bagram.

British journalist Yvonne Ridley has publicized the theory that Siddiqui has been held at Bagram for years; Ridley said that former Bagram prisoners report having heard a woman’s screams, and she has concluded that woman was Aafia Siddiqui.

Nielson-Greene describes these claims as “rumor and innuendo.” She said that a woman had been held at Bagram in 2003, but that woman, identified only as “Shafila,” was released.

Nielson-Greene said she was “certain — as certain as you can be — [that the woman] doesn’t match the description” of Aafia Siddiqui.

Reached on Monday, before news of the gunfight had been broken, a Defense Department spokesman in Washington declined to confirm or deny whether Siddiqui had ever been held at Bagram, saying that they do not normally answer questions regarding individuals at Bagram.

Siddiqui linked to terrorists

Between 2003 and 2008, the U.S. government has suggested links between Siddiqui and terrorism.

According to Sharp, Siddiqui’s lawyer, every past allegation of terrorist activities on Siddiqui’s part has been refuted.

Sharp notes that Siddiqui disappeared in 2003 just days after so-called “9/11 mastermind” Khalid Shaikh Mohammed was apprehended by U.S. authorities, suggesting he may have “given up” her name.

In March 2004, then-FBI Director Robert Mueller named Siddiqui as “an Al Qaeda operative and facilitator.”

In 2006, the U.S. declassified a biography of alleged terrorist Ammar al-Baluchi which claimed that he had married Siddiqui after she divorced the father of her children in 2003.

Siddiqui’s disappearance

When Siddiqui disappeared in 2003, she was with her three children, aged seven years, five years, and six months. There is still no information on the whereabouts of those children.

Jahangir, the Ghazni official, said the teenage boy arrested with Siddiqui was a 12 year-old named “Ali.” That is not the name of Siddiqui’s eldest child, though her child would be 12 or 13 years old now.

Congress Acts to Overhaul College Loan Regulations

By Tamar Lewin
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Congress overwhelmingly approved an overhaul of the nation’s higher education law on July 31, adding dozens of provisions and programs to help families with soaring college costs.

The bill is an effort to keep college costs down through greater transparency — and perhaps shaming — without imposing price controls. It requires colleges and universities to report more information about their costs and prices, to be released by the Education Department in user-friendly lists; those with the largest percentage tuition increases will have to tell the department why they were needed and what they will do to keep costs down.

The measure passed in the House by 380 to 49 and in the Senate by 83 to 8.

The measure also simplifies federal financial-aid forms, and, for the first time, makes Pell grants for low-income students available year-round, not just during the academic year. It also requires colleges to disclose all relationships with student lenders and bans all gifts and revenue-sharing agreements between institutions and lenders offering federal and private loans.

Although President Bush is widely expected to sign the legislation, the White House made no promises last week.

“We will review the legislation to see how it addressed administration concerns during the conference process,” said Scott Stanzel, a White House spokesman.

Representative George Miller, Democrat of California and chairman of the House education committee, said the bill would “create a higher-education system that is more consumer-friendly, fairer and easier to navigate.”

Education groups found good and bad in the sprawling 1,100-page legislation.

Terry Hartle of the American Council on Education said he applauded provisions making it easier for low-income students to pay for a college education, but worried about the cost of complying with all the new regulations “dealing with textbooks, tuition and fees, cost of attendance, alumni activities, foreign gift reporting, fire safety, graduation rates, drug violations, vaccines and peer-to-peer file sharing.”

Coming five years after the last

major education overhaul expired, the legislation was a source of substantial relief to many lawmakers.

“We have had over 13 different extensions of this bill,” said Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, Democrat of Maryland, who has recently steered the bill in the absence of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts and chief author of the bill. “I feel like we have been on third base for six and a half years.”

House and Senate negotiators agreed on the final outlines of the bill July 30, getting around the last sticking point — how to deal with states that reduce their spending on higher education — with a symbolic compromise under which states that do so could not compete for money from a new grant program that may never be given money.

College affordability has been a high priority for the current Congress, which in other legislation over the past year cut interest rates on student loans and raised the size of Pell grants. Many lawmakers have been frustrated that every increase in federal financial aid is quickly swallowed up by increases in tuition.

Congress has also been concerned that the form filled out by families seeking help with tuition, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as the Fafsa, was a daunting obstacle for many. “Though it was only a seven-page form, you had to hire a financial services outfit to do it,” Ms. Mikulski said.

The new law calls for a two-page Fafsa-EZ form.

With textbook costs averaging about \$900 a year and many students forced to pay hundreds of dollars for a required book “bundled” with a DVD or workbook, the new law would require publishers to provide full pricing information and sell unbundled versions of every textbook.

Solution to Bonus

from page 9

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Controversy Remains Whether NW16 Incident Merited Charges

Hacking, from Page 1

Should Short have been charged?

Undergraduate Association President Noah S. Jessop '09 stated that he was "very pleased to hear the change of direction in the handling of the case." However, Jessop expressed concerns about the lessons future hackers might take from this incident.

"I think that in a case where you've got a student on Institute property who cooperates, it sends a very conflicting message to send that to Cambridge courts," he said. "We do not want to send a signal encouraging people to risk life and limb to flee."

Charging students found in unauthorized locations is "very detrimental to both the Institute and the students involved," making it much harder for both to go about their normal business, Jessop said.

"In a nonviolent case where a student fully cooperates, things should be handled internally," Jessop said.

Nevertheless, Sack said that he and Short "feel the police did the right thing in the case." And former MIT Police chief and current MIT security director John DiFava stood by the MIT Police officers' decision to file charges against Short. "I thought that the actions were appropriate under the circumstances," he said.

"Oftentimes an officer finds himself in a situation where the facts dictate that a certain action has to be taken," DiFava said. "This was one of those situations."

DiFava pointed to location as the primary reason that the incident escalated to criminal charges. "It was not a logical place for hacking or exploring," he said. He noted that there are no tunnels or suspended ceilings in the basement of NW16, both features that are commonly of interest to hackers.

In addition, DiFava noted that certain responses by Short may have raised some flags. Keegan claims in his police report that Short said "that he was there to see what he could find for parts in the area." DiFava also believes that nothing was mentioned about hacking until well after the incident.

The officer "made a determination that it was potentially a crime," DiFava said.

NW16 inappropriate for hacking?

As part of the Plasma Science and Fusion Center, NW16 has slightly tighter security than other parts of campus. Because it houses materials and equipment purchased with funds from the federal governments, the security at the PSFC is reviewed by the Department of Energy every two years, said Matt Fulton, safety coordinator and facilities manager at the PSFC.

Fulton said that the basement of NW16 serves as a storage area for various PSFC labs. According to Fulton, there are "high-value stores" in some areas as well as equipment, such as capacitors and lasers, which could be hazardous if released to the general public.

According to Keegan's police report, "NW 16 is a common area for theft," but the MIT Police's press log does not record any events in NW16 other than Short's arrest within the past year. However, according to Fulton, there has been an incidence of theft from the basement of NW16 within the last five years.

"As a research laboratory that's funded by the federal government, we have an obligation" to the protect the property there, said Fulton.

Fulton deferred specific questions about security at NW16 to the director of the PSFC, Miklos Porkolab, who declined to comment.

Despite being part of the PSFC, NW16 does not seem to be a central location for active laboratory research, though. According to PSFC Library coordinator Jason Thomas, NW16 houses mostly conference rooms, offices, and classrooms, with there being only possibly "a couple small labs" in the building.

Though the building is not accessible to the general MIT community, Thomas said that all PSFC personnel have cards that grant them access to NW16 as well as other PSFC buildings, such as NW17 and NW21. According to its Web site, the PSFC Library, which is located on the first floor of NW16, is open 24 hours, 7 days a week to the PSFC community.

It seems that both Short and Barnard had access to NW16 as graduate students in the PSFC.

Nevertheless, despite NW16's mostly non-active-laboratory function, Fulton expressed a desire for hackers to stay out of NW16 along with the rest of the PSFC. "I hope that research laboratories will become exempt from hacking as a result of this." He noted his concerns over safety and over research projects that might be jeopardized if equipment were to go missing.

The hack etiquette in MIT's statement on hacking to be included in the student handbook in the fall includes the item, "Do not steal anything."

Conversation on hacking to continue

DiFava expressed some frustration with the response to the MIT Police from this incident and the Faculty Club incident in fall 2006, when three students found after hours in the Faculty Club were also charged in Cambridge District Court.

"We're here to help, not to harm, not to negatively impact anybody," DiFava said. He noted that there have been dozens of encounters in the last two years in which students found in unauthorized locations have been quietly referred to internal MIT discipline proceedings or even told simply to vacate the premises without further action.

"We don't have a lot of guidance," DiFava said, "because it is so difficult a topic."

"I would prefer that we have further guidance," DiFava said, but he wanted people to understand that given the circumstances, "we're not doing bad here."

"Further guidance" may be forthcoming, as Jessop said that "one of my goals for this year is to be able to paint some really clear boundaries" for what's hacking and what's not and to try to define "what everybody can expect from this tradition that brings the Institute great pride and publicity." Jessop conceded that he did not expect to be able to draw "hard and fast lines," but he did hope to achieve some "forward progress" in resolving the miscommunication that he's seen over hacking and its boundaries.

Dining, Housing Issues Await Incoming Dean

Colombo, from Page 1

Columbia University since 1992, has held the position of dean for student affairs at Columbia since 1998. From 1975 to 1992, he worked at Johns Hopkins University in a variety of positions, including dean for students. (Coincidentally, Benedict took over Colombo's Johns Hopkins position in 1992 before coming to MIT.)

At Columbia, Colombo oversaw the consolidation of the admissions and advising divisions of Columbia's two undergraduate schools, according to the *Columbia Spectator*, a student newspaper. Colombo was also part of a team of administrators that negotiated with students activists during a hunger strike last year.

A quick search in the *Spectator's* archives also reveals that, among other things, Colombo created a committee earlier this year to evaluate Columbia's "opaque" discipline procedures and met with student representatives of groups targeted by racist graffiti last fall.

"It is evident that [Dean Colombo] is a man who fervently cares about his students and loves what he does," Undergraduate Association President Noah S. Jessop '08 said in an e-mail. "I believe that he is very curious to learn about what MIT is like now before making any changes. I suspect Dean Colombo will put in the effort to do so in an exemplary fashion."

Colombo, who is on vacation until Aug. 18, was unavailable for comment.

As previously reported in *The Tech*, a total of about six dozen candidates to replace Benedict were vetted by an external search firm, with about three dozen of those having complete applications.

Eight candidates were chosen and interviewed by the search advisory committee, with a few candidates invited to a second round of interviews and meetings with students, faculty, and additional administrators. A short list was submitted to Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 who gave a final recommendation to President Susan Hockfield.

Major issues for the new dean

In an e-mail, Jessop said that immediate issues for Colombo to address will include dining and housing, and "continuing the recent progress in student engagement."

"Students are really in desperate need of an ally in the administration," former UA President Martin F. Holmes '08 said. He strongly encouraged Colombo to continue Benedict's tradition of having weekly office hours for students. It would give students "time to interface with the dean," Holmes said.

Holmes also stated that dining was the most prominent challenge for the new dean. It's a "monumental issue ... that needs to be handled very carefully."

Lerman added that a long-term

sustainable model for construction and maintenance of residence halls was also an issue Colombo would need to address. "Several residences are arguably in need of renovation. ... We need a much more coherent plan," Lerman said.

Continuing to support the fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, both financially and otherwise, was also cited as another issue for the new dean, as was how to best integrate living and learning.

Colombo's contributions to student life will build on the work that Benedict has done in his time here.

As dean for student life, Benedict has worked on campus dining issues, overseen dormitory renovations, expanded the housemaster program to graduate residences, and worked on other student services projects. His position also made him responsible for student life and well-being, evident in his work on the 2001 Mental Health Task Force.

"Part of what made this search so hard is that [the new dean] has big shoes to fill," Lerman said.

"I am not alone in saying that Larryben created an integral part of what we consider the MIT experience, Student Life," Jessop wrote in an e-mail. "He has done tremendous things for this institution. ... I wish him all the best in his future endeavors."

New dean will live in Next House

Colombo and his family will live at Next House for the upcoming academic year, in the vacant housemasters' apartment.

"Living on campus with my family will give me ample opportunity to interact with students," Colombo told the MIT News Office. "I look forward to moving to Cambridge later this summer."

The search advisory committee determined that it would be "enormously beneficial" for the new dean for student life to live on campus, Clay said in an e-mail to Next House. As MIT reached its decision, it was discovered that Colombo would be very interested in the opportunity, Lerman said.

Holmes, a member of the search advisory committee, said that he was very excited about Colombo's decision to live on campus. "That level of commitment and enthusiasm to get to know students and understand MIT culture is a telling sign that he is coming here with an open mind," Holmes said.

The search for a new Next House housemaster will continue in the fall, and the plan to provide faculty and staff support to Next will remain the same. Residential Life Associate Marc A. Lo will serve as "interim house director" and will work with the house government and with residents. The dormitory's current housemasters, Muriel Medard '89 and John Simmons '90, will move off-campus with their family but will still serve officially as housemasters.



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ATO Summer Residents Relocated Because of Water Damage

Summer residents of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity were relocated after an internal water pipe burst and caused minor water damage to the interior structure of the building.

According to David M. Nole '09, a member of ATO who was in charge of finding summer boarders, MIT relocated all student residents to Next House for health and safety reasons. Other residents were transferred to a Boston-side fraternity that had a large number of vacant rooms. MIT students will be allowed to stay at Next House for a few more days and will then be allowed to move into their fall dormitories. Nole said in an e-mail that MIT would not charge the students a fee for moving in early.

The water pipe that burst drains the roof of the ATO building, according to Nole, and had become clogged after several days of inclement weather.

MIT contracted a construction crew to fix the water damage, as well as provide previously planned renovations, Nole said. Repairs and renovations are set to be complete by the beginning of September and will be paid for by ATO's insurance, Nole said.

"MIT has been very helpful and supportive over the past several weeks and we are very thankful for their assistance," Nole said. Nole also thanked the other fraternities for offering their help.

—Angeline Wang



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH
Belfor Property Restoration trucks are seen in front of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity midday on Saturday, July 26. Summer residents of ATO had to be relocated after a water pipe burst, causing water damage to the interior structure of the building.

Sculptors Turn Sand Into Spectacle



Revere Beach hosts the annual New England Sand Sculpting Festival on July 14–20.

(above) Over 350,000 spectators visited the festival where 11 sculptors from across the globe competed for \$15,000 in prize money.

(right) Carl Jara of Cleveland Heights, Ohio focuses on the details as he constructs his masterpiece on July 18. The world class sculptor won the festival's top prize this summer for the second year in a row.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHELSEA GRIMM

Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between July 1, 2008 and Aug. 4, 2008. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

- July 1:** M39 (60 Vassar St.), 9:54 a.m., Report of suspicious person on the third floor; David Morales of 889 Harrison Ave., Boston, Mass., placed under arrest for trespassing after notice. W89 (291 Vassar St.), 5:22 p.m., Report of motor vehicle broken into yesterday and GPS stolen; motor vehicle was parked at the Albany Garage area. M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 10:14 p.m., Suspicious person in Bldg. 2 taken into custody on an outstanding warrant: Lawrence Smith of 444 Harrison Ave., Roxbury, Mass.
- July 2:** M14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 9:58 a.m., Call received about a suspicious person; detectives identified Elliot Jackson of 43 Islandview Place, Dorchester, Mass., and took him into custody on an outstanding warrant. E19 (400 Main St.), 3:30 p.m., Larceny of wallet from office area. N52 (265 Mass. Ave.), 5:24 p.m., Larceny of moped from loading dock area.
- July 3:** W89 (291 Vassar St.), 2:40 p.m., Larceny of rear license plate from motor vehicle in West Annex Lot. Lot 2 (20 Albany St.), 4:01 p.m., Larceny of GPS from motor vehicle in Albany Garage.
- July 5:** E19-239, 7:48 a.m., Larceny of wallet from office. 405 Memorial Dr., 11:38 a.m., Larceny of two bicycles. W89 (291 Vassar St.), 6:14 p.m., Report of car broken into in West Lot.
- July 7:** W89 (291 Vassar St.), 4:13 p.m., Report of mountain bike stolen from bike rack; reporting person believes the bike is now listed on Craigslist. NE25 (5 Cambridge Ctr.), 5:27 p.m., Arrest of Edwin Roldan of 168 Webster Ave., Cambridge, Mass., for receiving stolen property.
- July 8:** PBE (400 Memorial Dr.), 9:49 a.m., Larceny of bicycle. M1 (33 Mass. Ave.), 10:16 a.m., Breaking and entering no force; larceny of laptop. M66 (25 Ames St.), 1:40 p.m., Breaking and entering no force; larceny of petty cash. N52 (265 Mass. Ave.), 7:48 p.m., Larceny of camera.
- July 10:** M14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 1:31 p.m., Report of harassing phone call. M26 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 6:44 p.m., Larceny of bicycle from Bldg. 26 area.
- July 11:** E18 (50 Ames St.), 10:27 a.m., Report of annoying postcard received. M64 (21 Ames St.), 12:37 p.m., Larceny of bag. W89 (291 Vassar St.), 7:39 p.m., Larceny of bicycle from Ashdown House in April.
- July 13:** W89 (291 Vassar St.), 2:12 p.m., Report of money removed from bank account fraudulently. SPE (518 Beacon St.), 4:43 p.m., Breaking and entering; several items stolen from room.
- July 14:** East Campus, 10:54 a.m., Breaking and entering; stolen backpack and contents. 28 Fenway Boston, 12:08 p.m., Damage to front door.
- July 15:** Lot 2 (20 Albany St.), 7:32 p.m., Breaking and entering of motor vehicle; GPS

- stolen. M9 (105 Mass. Ave.), 10:28 a.m., Larceny of bicycle locked with cable. E15 (20 Ames St.), 2:50 p.m., Breaking and entering; LCD projector stolen.
- July 16:** W89 (291 Vassar St.), 10:07 a.m., Larceny of tools. E25 (45 Carlton St.), 10:24 a.m., Larceny of bicycle. M32 (32 Vassar St.), 11:22 a.m., Larceny of wire.
- July 18:** W35 (100 Vassar St.), 3:51 p.m., Report that individual who trespassed earlier in the day has returned; Lo, Kin Yui of 305 Memorial Dr., Cambridge, Mass. arrested for trespassing.
- July 19:** M26 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 10:28 a.m., Larceny of video equipment.
- July 21:** Lot 2 (20 Albany St.), 7:29 p.m., Report of vehicle keyed while parked in the Albany Garage area.
- July 23:** W31 (120 Mass. Ave.), 1:23 p.m., Larceny of camera. E25, 2:41 p.m., Larceny of wallet. E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 5:10 p.m., Larceny of two credit cards, one debit card, and \$60 cash from office. W34 (120 Vassar St.), 8:48 p.m., Larceny of lawnmower.
- July 24:** M50 (142 Memorial Dr.), Breaking and entering; equipment stolen from construction trailer. E17 (40 Ames St.), 2:07 p.m., Larceny of two wallets. M54 (21 Rear Ames St.), 2:37 p.m., Larceny of laptop. E19 (400 Main St.), 3:45 p.m., Breaking and entering; report of stolen tools.
- July 25:** AP (479 Commonwealth Ave.), 12:58 p.m., Attempted breaking and entering at 4 a.m.
- July 26:** W85 (540 Memorial Dr.), 9:45 p.m., Breaking and entering; report of backpack containing laptop, GPS, and other valuables stolen from room.
- July 27:** Albany Garage / Albany St., 4:47 p.m., Vehicle broken into; small electronics stolen.
- July 28:** W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 9:21 a.m., Larceny of camera lens.
- July 29:** M16 (21 Rear Ames St.), 6:16 a.m., Breaking and entering; larceny of wire cable. W89 (400 Main St.), 10:21 a.m., Larceny of wire.
- July 30:** NW62 (310 Mass. Ave.), 8:31 a.m., Report of an attempted breaking and entering. M32 (32 Vassar St.), 9:10 a.m., Breaking and entering; electronic equipment stolen. E19 (400 Main St.), 4:03 p.m., Larceny of tools from pickup truck. E40 (1 Amherst St.), 4:29 p.m., Larceny of bicycle.
- July 31:** NW86 (70 Pacific St.), 8:57 a.m., Larceny of laptop.
- Aug. 1:** Danforth St., 1:25 a.m., 1999 Toyota Camry stolen the previous evening. E40 (1 Amherst St.), 7:42 a.m., Malicious damage to property. Hayward Lot, 12:35 p.m., Vehicle broken into and laptop stolen on Aug. 1.
- Aug. 3:** E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 11:11 a.m., Attempted larceny on Aug. 1. E51 (70 Memorial Dr.), 11:27 a.m., Malicious damage to property. W32 (32 Vassar St.), 6:38 p.m., Larceny of wallet from unlocked locker in the Z Center.
- Aug. 4:**

COMPILED BY ANGELINE WANG



SPORTS

World's Top Athletes Converge on Beijing For Olympic Games

By Aaron Sampson
SPORTS EDITOR

The lead-up to the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, which begin today in Beijing, has been marked by controversy. Widespread opposition to the policies of the Chinese government inflamed demonstrations that disrupted the international legs of the Olympic torch's journey last spring. Internet censorship, although slightly relaxed from a week earlier, continues to be a point of argument for the media covering the events.

The Olympics, however, have long held the power to transcend politics and allow athletes from all over the world to come together in peaceful competition. As the spotlight now shifts from controversy surrounding the host nation to the competitions themselves, the summer games show the potential for historic performances from the world's greatest athletes.

Hosting the Olympics is the source of immense national pride for China, and top Chinese athletes such as sprinter Liu Xiang and diver Guo Jingjing are under immense pressure to succeed. Guo, the defending three-meter springboard gold medalist, and her teammates carry perhaps the greatest potential to showcase the strength of Chinese athletics. There has been wide speculation that the Chinese divers could sweep all eight gold medals in diving, a feat they came close to in 2004 with six.

Track and field events have been with the modern Olympics since their inception and have always been a major focus of attention at the games. No event attracts more attention than the 100-meter dash. This year, Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt is heading to the Olympics having set a new world record in the 100-meter of 9.72 seconds in May. Running against Bolt is American Tyson Gay, who finished in a time of 9.68 seconds at the Olympic trials. Because of a strong tailwind, this time was not recognized as an official record, but it is the fastest anyone has ever covered a hectometer on foot.

Another notable pair of track and field athletes are Iraqi sprinter Dana Hussein Abdul-Razzaq and discus thrower Haidar Nasir. Iraq was prepared to send a team of seven athletes to the 2008 games, but late last month the International Olympic Committee banned Iraq because of the dissolution and reappointment of the country's National Olympic Committee last May. The IOC eventually agreed to lift the ban, but not until after the deadline for non-track and field events had passed, leaving Iraq with only two eligible athletes. However, the International Rowing Federation also allowed Iraqi scullers Hamzah Hussein and Haidar Nozad their place in the competition. After an exceptionally difficult road to the games, these athletes have the chance to bring pride and unity to their long-suffering nation.

In the swimming events, the biggest story is the same as it was four years ago: Michael Phelps and his quest to break fellow American swimmer Mark Spitz's all-time record for the most gold medals in a single Olympiad. Spitz won seven golds at the 1972 games in Munich, a record Phelps nearly matched in 2004 when he left Athens with a total of six gold and two bronze medals.

One swimmer who has already made Olympic history is South African Natalie du Toit, who became the

first athlete ever to qualify for both the Olympic and Paralympic teams in the same year. Du Toit, whose left leg was amputated at the knee in 2001, is the first amputee to compete at the Olympics since 1904.

United States basketball had long been dominant at the Olympics, but after a disappointing third-place finish by the 2004 incarnation of "The Dream Team," the 2008 squad has been labeled "The Redeem Team." Featuring NBA stars like LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, and Kobe Bryant, the U.S. team went undefeated in its pre-games exhibition schedule, narrowly defeating Australia in their final pre-Beijing game on Tuesday.

The flower-shaped Beijing Olympic Tennis Center could be the stage for a rematch of last month's unforgettable Wimbledon final between Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. After defeating the five-time Wimbledon champion, Nadal will replace Federer as the world's top ranked player in two weeks, a title Federer has held since 2004.

Lastly, for the first time in 104 years, three siblings will be competing together on the U.S. Olympic team. Two-time Taekwondo gold medalist Steven Lopez is joined this year by his younger brother and sister, Mark and Diana. All three Lopez siblings have won world championships and are strong medal contenders in Beijing. Rounding out the Lopez family's dominance of the U.S. team is coach and older brother Jean.

All of these athletes are now gathering in one place as the world's premiere sporting event begins again. Their stories are just a few of the hundreds soon to have their next chapter written in Beijing.

Bennett Crosses English Channel In Grueling 21-Mile, 11-Hour Swim

By James Kramer

DAPER STAFF

On July 28, and after an 11-hour battle from Dover, England to Cap Griz Nez, France, Clara S. Bennett '10 joined an elite group by swimming across the English Channel. Bennett became the third MIT student-athlete to successfully complete the grueling, 21-mile swim.

Beginning her journey at 5:57 a.m., Bennett enjoyed good weather conditions and low tides, although the water temperature hovered around 62°F for most of the swim. Despite a slow start, the physics major settled into a nice rhythm three hours in and fought off shoulder pain and exhaustion en route to an immensely inspiring accomplishment.

"I didn't have any nerves prior to jumping in and surprisingly I felt

good while finishing," said Bennett. "The first few hours were definitely the toughest. After three hours, there was no concern about making it, just a matter of how."

Overcoming the mental grind is a critical component in crossing the English Channel, and Bennett's intense preparation enabled her to conquer the circuit. Bennett completed a six-hour swim in 60° water to qualify for the attempt. One of her open-water training swims included battling five-foot waves and a 25-knot head wind off the Boston shore. To prepare her body for the physical and mental test, Bennett's daily workout routine covered four hours per day and included lots of dry-land exercises, yoga, and kick-boxing.

"The only time I was ever really worried was about a month ago,"

confided Bennett. "I was experiencing fatigue after all of the lifting, Pilates, and other dry-land exercises while a previous injury to my shoulder led to some doubts."

It definitely helped that Bennett wasn't alone, as she trained with friend and former club teammate, Mallory Mead. A recent graduate of Western Kentucky University, Mead made the swim across the Channel two days earlier.

"Mallory and I joked that we got most of the bad weather out of the way on our training trips, and I definitely have to give her the credit for planting the seed to make this swim," Bennett said.

For a detailed recap of Bennett's journey and the events leading up to her swim, visit Bennett and Mead's blog at <http://swimmingthechannel.blogspot.com/>.

Wellesley's Sonia Raman Named New Head Coach of Women's Basketball

By Mindy Brauer

DAPER STAFF

Sonia Raman, who has served as an assistant coach at Wellesley College for the past six years, has been named head coach of MIT women's basketball, as announced by Director of Athletics Julie Soriero.

In addition to serving as the 12th head coach in the history of MIT women's basketball, Raman will fill a key role as the Assistant Director of Compliance. A highly-regarded and dynamic young coach, Raman is also a lawyer, who has spent the last seven years in compliance for the United States Department of Labor and Fidelity Investments.

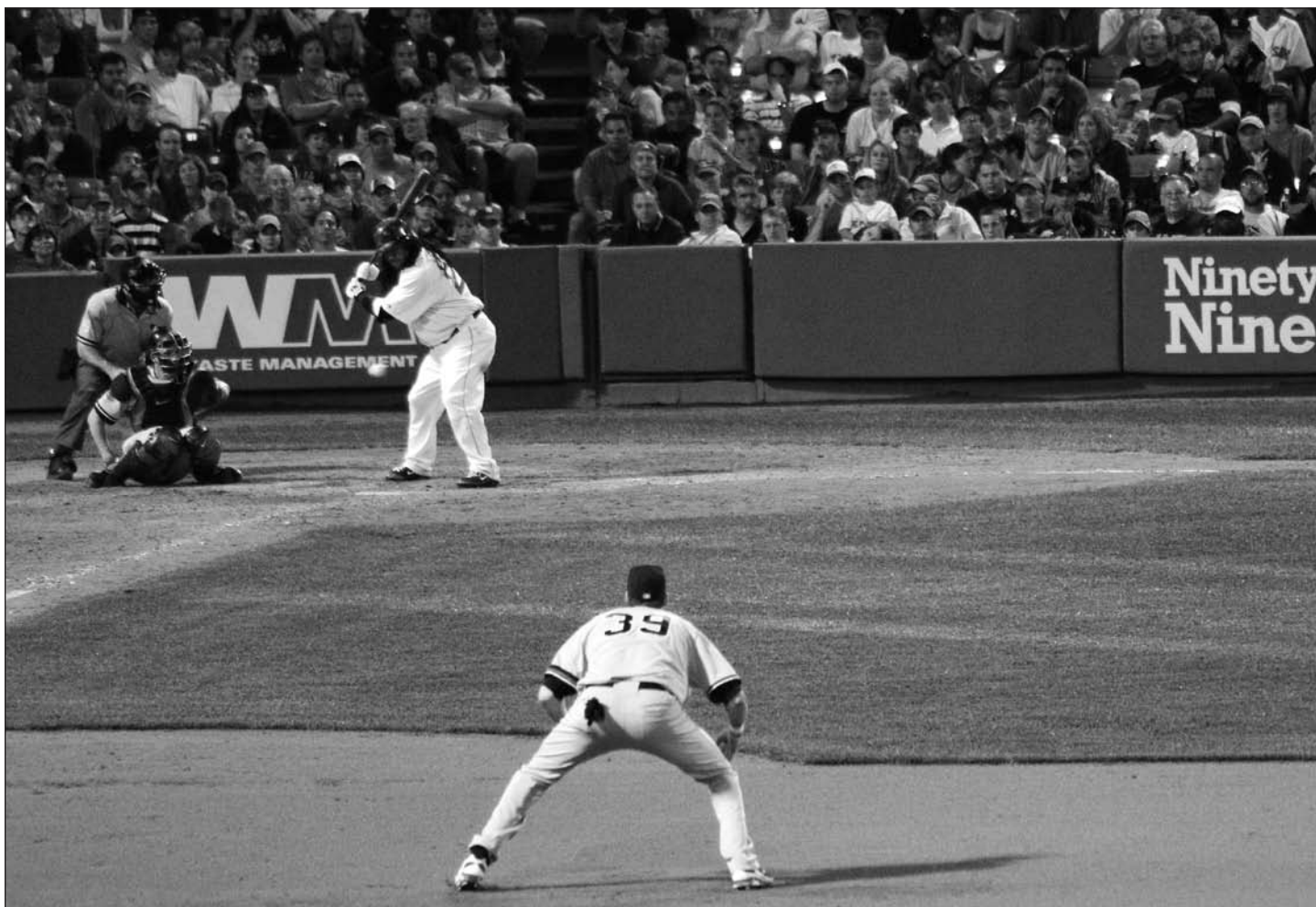
"The commitment Sonia has to the game of basketball and to the coaching profession is obvious," said Soriero. "She has a solid background in teaching, recruiting and player development. Sonia is ready to take the next step and lead her own program and we are excited that the program she leads will be MIT."

As a top assistant at Wellesley, Raman had been responsible for opponent scouting, including MIT, which competes against Wellesley as part of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference. Her in-depth knowledge of NEWMAC will serve as a strong asset as the Engineers look to build upon last year's success. The team reached the quarterfinals of the NEWMAC

Tournament after compiling a 12-13 regular season record, its best in five years.

"I am very excited for the opportunity to coach the women's basketball team at MIT," said Raman. "I have tremendous respect for the MIT student-athletes from my time as an opponent in the NEWMAC. I can't wait to get started as we strive towards excellence together."

Prior to Wellesley, Raman spent two years as an assistant coach at Tufts University, where she also played while serving as team captain. Coaching at various camps across New England for the last 16 years, Raman was the head coach of high school, collegiate, and post-collegiate all-stars from 2000-2005 in the Bay State Games.



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH

Former Red Sox slugger Manny Ramirez steps up to the plate in the bottom of the eighth inning against the New York Yankees on Sunday, July 27. Ramirez was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers as part of a three-way deal with the Pittsburgh Pirates just minutes before the trade deadline on July 31. The Red Sox won 9-2 to avoid being swept in the series.

Write for *The Tech's* Sports Department!
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